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Whitley, Edythe

Some of the descendants of

Rev. Richard Denton





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**Some of the Descendants ✓  
of  
Rev. Richard Denton**



by  
**Edythe Whitley**



Published by  
**Womack Printing Company**  
**McMinnville, Tennessee**  
**1959**

This Little Book is Affectionately Dedicated

to

FRANCES ISABEL DENTON WOMACK

"Who taught my infant lips to pray,  
To love God's holy word and day,  
And walk in wisdom's pleasant way,  
My mother."

W. W.



## FOREWORD

--

A few years ago I decided to collect and preserve in permanent form some of the genealogy and history of the fine old family, Denton. When I began this work I knew but little of my mother's family. After some years of research several hundred pages of data was collected from bible records, civil records, census reports, published works and from interviews with members of the family.

With this mass of data before me I decided that to organize it into suitable form for publication was beyond my ability as an amateur genealogist.

Learning that Mrs. Edythe Whitley, a professional genealogist and historian of Nashville, had most of the data that I had collected, plus much more, I commissioned her to organize this data and the result is contained herein.

This modest little book is not intended as a comprehensive history of the Denton family, but the story of one branch of the family from the emigrant Rev. Richard Denton to the present generation in Middle Tennessee.

If some of the later generations belonging to this branch are not represented it is because they did not send the data on their line to me in time to be included in Mrs. Whitley's MS.

# 1379712

It is my desire to extend thanks here to all who sent data on the Denton family. Special thanks go to Mrs. Mary Farr Denton Murrey of Franklin, Tennessee for her kindness in sending the John Savage Denton papers from which was extracted much data, also to Rev. Willis Alden Baxter, minister of Christ's First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead, New York, for the brochures of the 250th and 300th anniversary of this church, which was established in 1644 by Rev. Richard Denton.

Where authorities do not agree on points of history we have presented both opinions. One point in question is the place where Rev. Richard Denton died and was buried. It will be noted in the text that one authority gives it as Hempstead, N. Y. and another Essex, England.

If errors are found your kindness in calling them to our attention will be very much appreciated.

Walter Womack

McMinnville, Tennessee  
January, 1959



CHRIST'S FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD, N. Y.



The present church building of Christ's First Presbyterian Church at Hempstead, Long Island, New York. The Church was established in 1644 by Rev. Richard Denton, and is said to be the oldest Presbyterian Church in America. (This picture is from an original water color by Cyril A. Lewis, A. W. S.)



## THE DENTON FAMILY IN ENGLAND

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While these pages are designed to give some data on the Denton family in the United States, and more expressly the branch of the family in Tennessee, we think it fitting to tell briefly something of the family in England.

Many times it has been said that the Denton family is French, and there is little doubt that there is some connection between the French Dantons and the English family Denton. The Dantons of France did not come into prominence until just before the Napoleonic period in that country, while the family in England was a well established and prominent family long before Napoleon's time.

It has also been said that the name Denton originated in ancient Rome and that Julius Dentatus, the Roman consul, came to England with Severus the Emperor and built the tower on Pict's wall which still stands as a part of Denton Hall near Carlisle in Cumberland County.

One authority declares that the Dentons came to England from France with William the Conqueror.

There is much evidence that the Dentons were Saxons. According to the Rev. Charles-Jones Denton, (ca. 1820) M. A., Curate of East Walton Co., Norfolk: "Bueth, the Saxon, Lord of Denton, was, as had been his ancestors long before him, lord of all of the lands included in the barony of Gillesland, and dwelt at the Tower of Denton, or at Denton Hall, when Earl Ranulf de Meschines conquered Cumberland. Bueth was driven out of his house and hold by the Normans and died in banishment in Scotland." His son Gilles Fits Bueth aided David, King of Scots, in the conquest of Cumberland and his claim as heir to Bueth's lands was supported by the Scottish king against Hubert de Vallibus to whom William the Conqueror had given the lands. Gilles was later killed by Robert de Villibus.

(It is significant that Robert de Vallibus, in expiation for this crime built the Priory at Lannercost, and also that the de Villibus and Denton families later intermarried.)

Gilles had two children, and their descendants include: Thomas, lord of Over Denton; Askelin de Denton; Robert de Denton, who built the Hall of Carlisle; Adam de Denton, lord of Denton Hall, Gillesland; John, who went into the South country and is supposed to have been the founder of the Dentons of Hillesdon, Buckinghamshire; Sirith married Robert de Denton, to whom she brought a moiety of Nether Denton, called West Denton; John de Denton, who married his cousin, Isabella, daughter of Eustace de Vallibus, lord of Hayton, and of Alice, his wife, daughter of Bued, lord of Denton; John, lord of Ainstipligh, and the forest of Garaway and Kirkpatrick Agingrow, in Scotland, which he had of the gift of Edward Baliol, King of the Scots; Sir Richard de Denton, lord of Denton Hall and of Nether Denton, was governor of Carlisle; John Denton, Esq., who exchanged Denton Hall and all of his lands in Gillesland with his kinsman, William Lord Dacre, for Warnel,

in the parish of Sebergham, and Thomas Denton, Esq., who built the house at Warnel, since called the Hall of Warnel Denton. It is said that Thomas took prisoner a Scotch nobleman at Flodden and made him build the great tower at Warnel Hall for his ransom.

From the Dictionary of National Biography, (Lee), London, England, 1903 we found biographical sketches of the following: James Denton, d. 1533, Dean of Lichfield; Henry Denton, 1633-1681, English writer; John Denton, 1625-1708, Nonconformist Divine; Nathan Denton, 1634-1720, last survivor of the ejected ministers; Thomas Denton, 1724-1777, writer, Rector of Ashted, Surrey; Thomas Denton, d. 1789, bookseller and artificer, hanged for coinage; William Denton, 1605-1691, physician to Charles I and writer of theological works; William Denton, 1815-1888, Vicar of St. Bartholomew.

Also in these volumes was a sketch of our emigrant ancestor, Richard Denton, 1603-1663, Divine, emigrated to New England 1640, d. Hempstead, Long Island.

From the New England Genealogical Reg. 11/241: Rev. Richard Denton came to America 1620-50 from the Parish of Oworm, North England on the ship James. Lived in Wethersfield and Stamford, Connecticut. The J.S. Denton papers show baptismal records of Nathaniel and Timothy, sons of Rev. Richard Denton, "in Parish Church of Bolton, England.

Regardless of the supposed origin of the family, the fact remains that Denton family records in England go back to about the 11th century.

The general opinion among members of the Denton family is that all of the Dentons in the United States are descendants of Rev. Richard Denton. Our research seems to substantiate this, for we have found only two instances where other Dentons, or families allied to the Denton family, lived in America, and neither of these left heirs named Denton here:

First, Henry Denton, fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, (son of Thomas Denton, Esq. of Warnel Denton, judge, barrister-at-law, recorder of Carlisle and J. P. for Cumberland County during the reign of Charles II), came to Maryland and became an extensive land proprietor there. He was also a judge in Maryland. He left one son, Vatchel Denton who died without children and left his property to his cousin, John Denton, Esq. of Warnel Denton, who came with son Capt. Thomas Denton to take possession of the Maryland estate, but was defeated in this by the Declaration of Independence.

The second was when Thomas Isham of Middle Temple, London, in 1676 willed 400 pounds "for the heir of Cousin German Henry Isham of Virginia"; 100 pounds to "my Uncle Denton, Doctor of Phisick" and 50 pounds to cousin Alexander Denton, Barrister of Middle Temple. The two Dentons were living in England. The above German Henry Isham is apparently the Henry Isham of Henrico County, Virginia who left a will which was probated in 1680. This will does not mention Denton.



## REV. RICHARD DENTON

Born Yorkshire, England 1586, m. Helen Windlbank.

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Reverend Richard Denton was a preacher at Halifax, England. He came to New England between 1630 and 1635. He was among the first settlers of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and occasionally exercised his profession while in that place. He removed with a part of the church to Rippowoms (Stamford) in 1641, and was the first of that place. After remaining at Stamford a few years, Mr. Denton, with some of the principal men of the plantation again removed, went to Long Island, and began the town of Hempstead. He continued the minister of that place until his death which occurred in 1663.

The Reverend Doctor Mather in his "Magnalia" thus speaks of Mr. Denton, "First at Wethersfield, then at Stamford, his Doctrine drop's as the rain, his speech distilled as the dew as the small Rain upon the tender Herb, and as the showr's upon the grass."

The fourth Puritan minister was Richard Denton, minister at Halifax, England, settled at Wethersfield, Connecticut, in 1630. He removed to Stamford, Connecticut in 1641, and in 1644, with a portion of his flock, to Hempstead, L. I., where he remained until 1659, when he returned to England. Denton was a Presbyterian.

He is so recognized by the Dutch pastors of New Amsterdam, who wrote to the Classis of Amsterdam in 1657: "At Heemstede, about seven Dutch miles from here, there are some Independents of the place listen attentively to his preaching, but when he began to baptise the children of such parents as are not members of the Church, they sometimes broke out of the Church."

He also ministered to the Puritans in our metropolis in an English Puritan Church. This was not a separate church building, but the band of Puritans to whom Doughty ministered. They worshiped alongside of the Dutch and the French, in the same building within the fort, and at different hours of service. (Magazine of American History, Vol. XIII; Doc. Hist. N. Y. III, page 107).

The following appeared on a bulletin board or placard in front of the Presbyterian Church at Hempstead in 1921: "This church was established in 1644. It is the oldest Presbyterian organization in the D. S., founded by the Rev. Richard Denton from Halifax, England, who came to America to attain religious liberty. The first building, erected in 1648, was sometimes used as a stockade for protection from Indians.

"The fourth building was on this site. It was used by the British troops as a stable and barracks and was burned in 1803. The present; the 6th building was erected in 1846 and remodeled in 1908."

In the Hempstead Town Records appears the following:



(Original written in Dutch). A. D. 1650 Hempstead Town Records:

"SUNDAY LAW---These orders made a General Court held a Hempstead September 16 and consented to by a full town-- Meeting held October 18. Forasmuch as the contempt of God's word and sabbaths is the desolating sin of Civil States and Plantations; and the public preaching of the word by those who are duly called thereto, is the means ordered of God for edifying, converting and saving the souls of men: it is ordered by the authority of this court that all persons in this town shall duly resort to the public meetings on the lords day and public days of Fasting and Thanksgiving, forenoon and afternoon under penalty of 5 guilders for the 1st absence, 10 for the 2nd and 20 for the 3rd. Those who remain refractory shall be liable to further censure of the Court either for aggravation of fine for Corporal punishment or banishment one-half the fine to be given to the informer, By order from the Magistrates was subscribed Daniel Dentonius Clerious"

Richard Denton, Wethersfield, a 1640 bred at the University of Cambridge where he had his A. B. 1623, being of Catherine Hall, perhaps came over in 1638 or 1639, and we fear that the long sissions at Wethersfield about Rev. Henry Smith made it desirable for him to remove about 1644 and he went to Stamford, and after a few months or years to Hempstead, L. I., where he died 1663. [sic.]

We learn from Mather that he had been a minister at Halifax in Yorkshire, and most of his Cap. 9 in Book III, 95, is taken up with telling that he was a little man, blind in one eye, and wrote a system of divinity. Better authority tells that he was of good family and had, in 1631, curacy of Coley Chapel in that large parish.

From a brochure of the 250th anniversary of Christ's First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead 1894, we quote:

"Among those who left their churches in England and came to this country on account of opposition to dissenters was a non-conformist minister of the Presbyterian type, by the name of Richard Denton. He was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1586, of a good and reputable family, and received his education at the University of Cambridge, from which institution he graduated in 1623. For a period of seven years after his graduation he was the settled minister of Coley Chapel, Halifax, Yorkshire, England. But the "Book of Sports" and many other acts on the part of the king and bishop were of such a character that this young divine could not accept them and rest conscientiously by their conclusions; so in 1630 he gave up his work and, with many of his followers, set sail for America.

"There is something suggestive about the year in which he gave up his work in Halifax. In 1629 the Puritans obtained a grant from the king for settlement in New England, and in 1630 fully one thousand Puritans reached this new country. It was at that time that Gov. John Winthrop arrived in Salem, and in all probability Richard Denton came over with him.

"He [Denton] labored first at Watertown, Mass., but in 1635, on account of opposition to his Presbyterianism by the Congregationalists of Massachusetts, he started a new settlement in Connecticut and gave it the name Weathersfield. In 1641 he became the owner of valuable real estate in Stamford, Conn., then in the jurisdiction of New Haven, and after his removal to Hempstead in 1644 he sold his place to the Rev. John Bishop, his successor in work at Stamford.

"Thompson in his History of Long Island says that many of his followers in the Old World came with him to this new land, and after staying a while at Watertown, Wethersfield and Stamford, they came with their minister to Hempstead and established their church upon a permanent basis.

"Richard Denton was pastor of the church until 1659 and received a salary of 70 pounds, equal in our money to \$350., which was paid in such articles as were most useful and comfortable. It is stated by one writer (Woodbridge) that the money was raised at a town rate as a matter of course. His leaving is involved in a mystery, as he left four sons behind him, two of whom, Nathaniel and Daniel, established Jamaica, in the year 1656, and aided in the plantation of Elizabethtown, N. J., in 1664. Mr. Denton's successor at Halifax says that he (Denton) returned to England in 1659 and spent the remainder of his life in Essex, where he died in 1662 at the advanced age of 76 years.

"It is always interesting to hear as much as possible about these early men, and anything in reference to their personal appearance and special characteristics is remarkably attractive. It is indeed gratifying to us that Cotton Mather was able to give a description of our illustrious founder. He says: 'Among these clouds (meaning the ministers who early came to New England) was one pious and learned Mr. Richard Denton, a Yorkshire man, who, having watered at Halifax, in England, where, first at Weathersfield, and then at Stamford, his doctrine dropped as the rain, his speech distilled as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass. Though he were a little man, yet he had a great soul; his well accomplished mind, in his lesser body, was an Iliad in a nut shell. I think he was blind of an eye, yet he was not the least among the Seers of Israel; he saw a very considerable portion of those things which eye hath not seen. He was far from cloudy in his conceptions and principles of divinity, whereof he wrote a system entitled "Soliliquia Sacra", so accurately, considering the four-fold state of man, in his created purity, contracted deformity, restored beauty, and celestial glory \* \* \* '".

The following is quoted from the brochure of the 300th anniversary of the church, 1944:

"After his return to England in 1659, The Reverend Richard Denton lived in Essex 'til his death in 1662 at the age of seventy-six. His monument bears the following inscription in Latin:



Here lies the dust of Richard Denton  
O'er his low peaceful grave bends  
The perennial cypress, fit emblem  
Of his unfading fame.

On earth  
His bright example, religious light,  
Shone forth o'er multitudes.

In heaven  
His pure rob'd spirit shines  
Like an efulgent star."

The children of Rev. Richard Denton were probably by two wives. There are strong indications that he was married twice. His children appear to have been:

1. John Denton, born 1618.
2. Daniel Denton
3. Timothy Denton, born about 1627

4. Nathaniel Denton, born about 1628, died 1730, married a lady named Sarah and had a son Nathaniel Denton Jr., born 1652, died 1719, who married Elizabeth Ashman, and became the parents of James Denton, born about 1675, whose wife was Martha, and left many descendants well represented in New York and adjoining states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, to this day.

5. Richard Denton, "junior" who died October 28, 1658, hardly a year after his marriage on November 10, 1657, to Ruth Tileston, of Babylon, Long Island, New York, where he left descendants.

6. Samuel Denton, died March 1713-1714. His wife was Mary Smith, daughter of John Rock Smith of Hempstead, Long Island, New York.

Daniel Denton, the son of Rev. Richard Denton, appears to have been town clerk of Hempstead in 1650. About 1656 he removed to Jamacia, Long Island. He was the author of "Description of New York" published in 1670. Among the children of Daniel Denton, Daniel born April 24, 1676 and Hannah born August 5, 1677, being by the first wife of the said Daniel Denton. Daniel Denton married secondly and had a son Samuel born September 29, 1679, and a daughter Sarah born about 1681.

Samuel Denton, the son of Daniel, who was the son of Rev. Richard was born in Jamaica, Long Island. This Samuel Denton lived in Goshen, N. Y. and was buried there in 1750. He married in Jamaica to Sarah Everett, daughter of John Everett, and they had, Sarah; Samuel; Gilbert; Joseph; James (married (1) Margaret Barton and (2) Mary Burton or Barton); Jonas, possibly John; and Daniel (killed in Wyoming); Thomas who was born December 27, 1742 and died in 1810, having married October 26, 1767 Phebe Hall.

## SAMUEL DENTON

(Son of Reverend Richard Denton)

Died 1713-1714, Married Mary Smith.

The Hempstead Town Records, Liber C, page 146 (See Vol. 2, p. 17), June 20, 1679, Samuel Denton and others take up land, 50 acres each on the same terms as the first proprietors.

Volume 1, page 130, of the Hempstead Town Records, mentions---It is ordered at a general Towne meeting held at Hempstead the 30th November 1662 and granted by general vote to such particular persons whose names are hereunder subscribed that they shall have liberty to take in land upon the north side lying and situated in the bounds of Hempstead (on the west side of Herricks) to the quantity of Six or Seven Acres or peace more or less so that they secure it by sufficient fence Welse they beare ye damage themselves proper right for them and their successors to enjoy forever. "It is understood that the number of ye lots doth begin at the east side." The names and number of lots include John Smith Rock, No. 9 and Samuel Denton, No. 11.

On February 3, 1663 there is evidence that Samuel Denton was elected one of the townsmen. (Vol. 1, p. 149, Hempstead Town Records).

September 13, 1665 Samuel Denton sold to Mr. Ogden one brown Stere cropt in ye of eare aged 2 years. (Hemp. Town Records, Vol. 1, p. 195).

The Hempstead Town Records, Vol. 1, p. 152, gives the following: "Know all men by these presents that I Jeremy Wood of Hempstead have covenanted bargained and sould unto Thomas Rushmour and Samuel Denton of the same plantation (Joyntly) all my rights and priviledges upon Mathew Garrisons Neck and at Mattinacock either layed out or as yet undivided and I do acknowledge that I have received of them full payment and satisfaction for the same to my owne content. In witness hereof I do hereunto subscribe my hand this 15 day of Marcj 1663. Signed by mark, Jeremy Wood, witness: William (mark) Smith, Jonas Houldsworth."

Also I do find in the town records: "Aprill 18th Anno 1665 Whar as I John Smith :R: of hamsteede have bargened and bouaitte of ambrose suttten the sellar and seller Loote that wase hes and sum times Edmon wodes and all his writt and Tittall of Landes one the plaines I the a fors'd John Smith have sold on to my Svninlaw Samuell Denton the afore saide seller and seller Loote and the thurd partee of the Lande thatt I bouett of the a fore said ambros notte with standen I the a fore said John Smith Doo give and beecueffe to the a fore Samuell denton my partte of the home bevell pesabbly too in Joye him his aiers and svckcesers for Ever From me my aires and svckcesers for Ever as witness my hand the daye and datte a bove wretten. [Signed] John Smith (his mark) Testes: Richard Gildersleve, Tho: Hickes."

"April 5, 1676, Timothy Halsted swears he was at Samuel Dentons & John Oke was there, and then Samuel Denton de-



livered an ox to John Oke that he had sold him for rum and he heard John Oke say he was to give Samuel Denton 3 1/2 anchors of Rume for the ox and further saith not."

The Hempstead Town Records further show, that, "Samuel Denton of Hempstead North Ryding sell unto John Staring one home lot that was formerly Thomas Weeks and also one hoame bevell yt was formily Aron Furmans and half a Hoame bevell that was formerly Richard Bradnells. Set my hand this 7th Sept. 1672. Signed Samuel [his mark] Denton. Witness-Thomas Rushmur, Richard Gildersleeve."

Again in the Hempstead records, "Know all men by these presents thatt I William Thickstone of Hempstead upon Long Island in ye North Ridding of New York Shire doe by these presents for me my heirs executors administrators or Assigns alinate bargane sell and sett over unto Samuel Denton of the aboves<sup>d</sup> Denton his heirs executors Administrators or assigns on lott of Woodland lying and being within ye bounds and limits of Hempstead lying on ye North-side of the plaines att a place commonly called Hericks in the quantytie twenty two acres more or less as it was laid out at the first bounded on the south side by Thomas Rushmores land and John Smith Van, and on ye east and north by land of Samuel Denton on the wast by common land at which land affos<sup>d</sup>, I ye aboves Thickstone do acknowledge to have sould as above sd unto ye above sd Denton his heirs or assigns with all and Singular the proffitts benefitts priviledges and apurtenances thereunto belonging to have and to hould forever hereby warranting the sale hereof against any person or persons that shall lay any Just Claim title or interest thereunto it being for a valuable consideration in hand by me already received to the true performance of the premises I have set to my hand and affixed my seal this fifteenth day of January 1679. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us Tho Ruchmur, Edre Ffrench. Signed by mark, William Thickstone."

"At a town meeting (generall) held at Hempstead ye 20th of June in the year 1679 it was voted and agreed that those persons above named shall have liberty to come in with them for fifty acres with them the land is to be laid out as in ye same form as the first proprietors did and that the time of the fifty acre men shall begin in on ye 27th day of this instant month and so to take their lots as they are drawn to Mr. Thomas Rushmur to be entered in the town records." "Lot No. 1 Samuel Denton". (Hempstead Town Records, Liber C, p. 146).

"At a town meeting held the 13th of March 1680, was granted by the Major vote that Samuel Denton shall have liberty to tak up Eyght and Twenty acres of land which is the remainder of his Fifty Acres."

There appears a record where five and twenty acres of land of Samuel Denton "being part of his fifty lot it lys and is situated on the est side of a place commonly called Herricks near the edge of the plains it is bounded by hyways and marked trees on the west and north and on the South it is bounded by John Curtis's land and on the east it is bounded by marked trees running in length North and south 64 Rods and in breadth east and west 63



Rods laid out" and "recorded the 31 of May 1686, by me, Nathaniel Pearsall, Clerk."

In the English Manuscripts, page 118, Governor Dongan, Nov. 17, 1685, "Deposition of Timothy Holsted and Samuel Denton of Hempstead, and Josiah Lettin of Oyster Bay, relative to the purchase-money paid the Indians, for Affter Kul (Achter Kol), N. J. by Daniel Denton, John Baylies and Luke Watson."

"William Thorne of Madman's Neck in ye bounds of Hempstead to Samuel Denton Senr, of Hempstead, a certain parcel of meadow ground fresh and salt lying and being situated at ye south meadow on a neck called ye Mill River Neck within ye pattent of Hempstead in quantity of acres as was given me by my deceased father in Law Henry Lininton, It is bounded on the north by a stack standing upon ye bank of a ditch by a spring and east by ye meddo of John Hubs deceased and west by ye meddo of Richard Osborne and south by Hog Island Creek all which meddo ground above bounded in quantity of acres as shall appear within ye above bounds with all rights titles, September 10, 1698. Witnesses: Joseph Pettit, John Lininton, John Smith and signed by William Thome, Catarine Thorne", both of whom make their mark.

Among the Lieutenant-Governor Nanfan's papers, June 26, 1701. Petition: Mando a negro woman, for the freedom of herself and Hagar, her child, according to stipulation of Ann Wharton, daughter of Thomas Rudyard, which "Samuel Denton of Queens County now refuses to carry out." (Page 147, Vol. XLIV, English Manuscripts).

In Governor Cornbury's papers, Jany 8, 1702. Petition: "Samuel Denton of Queens County, that the sheriff of Westchester may apprehend and deliver to the sheriff of Queens County one Mando, an escaped negro woman and her child." (Page 51, Vol. XLV, English Manuscripts).

January 14, 1703, another petition, Samuel Denton of Hempstead, for the arrest of his negro slave, who has been run off and concealed in Westchester County. (Page 18, Vol. XLVII, English Manuscripts).

On January 14, 1703, an order---the sheriff of Westchester County to deliver the above negro woman named Mando, to the sheriff of Queen County; Sheriff return--- "Cannot find the negro woman." (Page 19, Vol. XLVII, English Manuscripts).

A deed of gift from Samuel Denton reads thusly: "I, Samuel Denton, of Hempstead, Yeoman, in consideration of that perential love and affection I have and do bear toward my well beloved son James Denton of Hempstead, yeoman, two allotments of land lying and being situated on the north side of the great plains within the township of Hempstead westward of a place called Herrick the one of them being a ten acre lot of land formily granted to Joseph Jinnings as appears by the Records of Hempstead and purchased by me the other lot being formily laid out unto me containing twenty and two acres more or less Joyning to the side line on the west side of land of Samuel Smith's land near unto the other lot above said the 22 acre lot

being bounded on the east by Samuel Smith's land and on the north by a high way & on the west by a high way and on the south by the common land the ten acre lot being bounded on the west by the land of my said son James Denton and on the east by the highway and on the north and south by the common land.---16 Day---December 1710. Witnesses, Tho. Hicks, Francis Nichols, William Willis." Signed by mark, "Samuel Denton".

Samuel Denton, Senior, died about 1713-1714. March the fifteenth day 1713-1714. "This inventory was taken by us obadiah Volintine and James Serion by order of a warrant sent from Colonell Jackson, Esquire, one of her majesties Justist of the pease. A true inventory of all and singular the goods chattels credits Samuel Denbun of Hem-sted, deceased, praised at his own house as followeth

four Oxen & two Stires come four years old	L19	S00	D00
thirteen cows	32	10	00
three heffers & a Stire Come 3 years old	07	00	
three come two years old, Six year olds	07	02	
fivety eight sheep	18	17	
Negro giarl and a negro boy for boath	90	00	
one negro man worth nothing	00	00	
three old horses and three young ones	14	00	
one old mare and two young ones horses	03	05	
Six Swine	03	12	
thirteen Sheats three beds and a bolster	15	08	
one ruge two duch blanckets	03	00	
three flannell blankeys four cover Leds	03	17	
one Bed Sted Cord & Mat one negro bed C Loaths	01	06	
one ruge & blanket one covered & Curtens	03	16	00
one bed & bed sted as it is with all the furniture	09	00	
table Cloath & table Linnen	02	10	
two bolsters one with a case & pillo	01	04	
five iron pots & two Cittles	02	10	
four bras cittles & two Skillets	05	00	
twelve plates & four peuter pots	02	00	
fiveteen platters four basens & Old peuter	09	03	00
Seventeen trays & boles & a tin pan	01	02	
Eight pails & pigons two tramels two smoth- ing irons	01	03	
two fryings pans tongs one iron hook	00	10	
thirteen trenches	00	02	
ten barils two great Caskes one Heachet			
three sives	02	05	
one saddle & Cloath	11	12	
five tubs a Schurn & c. clar	00	14	
one hogsted Six barils a small cask one tub	01	02	
foure Scheets & a box a table two benches	04	02	
foure Coats a Vest & a weas Coat three pare of brishes	04	00	
one hat and two shirts	01	04	
thirteen pounds of yarn foure schars	01	08	
a pair of wool combs & Schafen dish	01	10	
a bed sted & card	00	07	00
ten yards and three quarters of woollen cloat	01	05	
The same of all the inventory is	L275	S06	D06



"Hemsted, March the seventeenth 1713/14 Parsons above named made oath before me that this is a true inventory and prisall of the estate within mentioned. Jno. Jackson, Judge. Obedia [mark] Volintine, James Searing. Debts owing to said Testator Samuel Denton one Bond or writing from Gersham Moore of Newtoun Loye said Testator for two Cows one pound sixteen shillings in money one Bill orhosve from said Gorsham Moore for Eight pounds of wool Samuel Denton, Jonah Denton."

The Hempstead records also show: "To all to whom these presents shall come or may in anywise Concern Greeting, Know ye that I, Mary Denton ye widdow and Relict of Samuel Denton, late of Hempstead in Queens County Doroit for diverse good causes and Considerations mo---hereunto Moveing Doe by these presents refuse to take upon me ye burthion office Administration of the Estate of my said late husband Samuel Denton, Decd, and ye same and Collm right and tittle there to to all Intents and purposes of Law doo hereby relinquish and Renounce and do desire that Administration of the Estate of my said late husband Samuel Denton, Deceased, may be granted to Samuel Denton and Jonas Denton sons of my said late husband, Samuel Denton. Witness my hand and Seal Twentieth Day of March Anno Dom. 1713 in ye Thireseenth year of her Majasties reigne. Sealed and Delivered in ye presents of Jacob Smith, John Spragg, Signed by mark Mary Denton."

New York 20th March 1713-1714. "Samuel Denton and Jonas Denton administrators of the Goods and Chattels of Samuel Denton, Deceased, made oath on ye holy rvan gohitcof Almighty God that ye above Inventory contain a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods and Chattels of the said Samuel Denton, Doneit, as sure as much tome so their or either of their hands or possession or Loyehands or possesion of any of her person or persons. In pruff for them or either of them, Sworne before me hereunto authorized by his Excellency Robert Hunter, Esq. Capt. Generale Governor of New York".

"The account of Samuel Denton and Jonas Denton, administrators of the Goods and chattels of Samuel Denton late of Hempstead in Queens County, Deceased. Dr. To Sundry as Inventory Appraised at 275-6-6 Cr. By cash paid Mary Denton ye widow & Relict of ye said Deceased her 3<sup>o</sup> part of said estate. 91-15-6 By cash paid Peter Smith son of Mary Ellison, Deceased who was one of the daughters of ye said Intestate for her share of ye said Intestates estate 14-0-9. By Cash paid Joseph Robinson & Jane his wife one other of ye Daughters of ye said Intestate for their share of ye said Intestates estate as by 14-0-9 Cr. By Cash paid Jonathan Seaman & Elizabeth his wife one other of ye daughters of ye said Intestate for their share of ye said Intestate Estate as by 14-0-9. By cash paid Abraham Denton one of ye sons of ye said Intestate for his share of ye Intestate Estate 14-0-9. By cash paid James Denton one of ye sons of ye said Intestate for his share of ye Intestate Estate 14-0-9. To be paid by said accountants (as follows) By Cash paid Thomas Treadwell & Hannah his wife one other of



ye Daughters of ye said Intestate for their share of said Intestates Estate to be paid by said accountants 14-0-9. By cash paid Robert Mitchell and Phebe his wife one other of ye Daughters of ye said Intestate for their share of ye said Intestate Estate to be paid by ye said accountants 14-0-9. By cash paid Ezekiel Smith & Martha his wife one other of ye said Intestates daughters of their share of said Intestates Estate to be paid by ye said accountant 14-0-9. By ye accountant Jonas Denton one other of ye sons of ye said Samuel Denton for his share of ye said Intestate Estate, 14-0-9. Total 223-0-9."

From the above we are able to obtain a very good picture of Samuel Denton and his family. We are not certain as to the order of birth of the children of Samuel and Mary (Smith) Denton, however, from the best deductions possible the family consisted of -

1. Jonas Denton
2. Samuel Denton
3. Mary Ellison Denton
4. Jane Denton
5. Elizabeth Denton
6. Abraham Denton
7. James Denton
8. Hannah Denton
9. Phebe Denton
10. Martha Denton

Jonas Denton born about 1658. He evidently was the father of Jonah or Jonas Denton of Hempstead from where he removed to New Hempstead, Rockland County, New York. There he owned 404 acres of land which he sold about 1735 to Peter Smith, and, Peter Smith of Hempstead on November 21, 1735, and his wife Rebecca, sold the same land to Samuel Cole of Newtown, L. I.

Samuel Denton, was born about 1656 died shortly before February 14, 1719, the date his will was proved. He married first \_\_\_\_\_ Smith, daughter of John Smith; and, secondly, Samuel married Abigail Graves, daughter of William and Ann Graves.

Mary Ellison Denton, born about 1662, died before April 5, 1689; married about 1686 Peter Smith. His inventory in 1688. On April 5, 1689 Samuel Denton Jr, her brother, was made administrator of her estate (Liber A. page 37 Deeds. Jamaica, L. I.). The inventory of the estate of Peter Smith was taken October 8, 1688 (Liber A. Jamaica, L. I.). To their union was born only one child so far as known that child being Peter Smith, born July 23, 1687, who married February 4, 1731, Rebecca Nichols, by whom he had at least two sons who were baptized on January 26, 1736, as Jakemiah Smith and Uriah Smith.

Jane Denton born about 1664, married Joseph Robinson. Little is known of this family at this present time, except that they were parents of Joseph, John, Mary, Thomas and Robert Robinson, who appear to have been born between 1690 and 1698.



Elizabeth Denton born about 1666, married Jonathan Seaman. In 1748 a Jonathan Seaman lived in Frederick County, Virginia. The Seamans of Virginia were from the New York family of that name. Jonathan Seaman was the son of Jonathan and Jane Seaman, Jonathan Seaman the elder was son of Capt. John Seaman. Jonathan Seaman of Hempstead, Queens County, New York, removed to New Hempstead, Orange County, New York (now Rockland County), about 1713. In the records of the Reformed Church of Tappan, Orange County, (now Rockland) we find the baptism records of the children of Jonathan Seaman and wife Elizabeth Denton as follows: Jacomiah Seaman, June 17, 1718; Jane Seaman, June 17, 1718; Eamie Seaman, June 17, 1718; Jonas Seaman, June 17, 1718; Elizabeth Seaman, August 3, 1720; and Jonathan Seaman, August 3, 1722. The last two were evidently born after the family removed to Tappan, Orange County, N. Y. The older children must have been born at Hempstead, Queens County, and were not included in the above list of baptisms. Those not included were Nehemiah, Hannah, John, Martha, and Phebe Seaman.

Abraham Denton, born about 1668, who married after 1698, will be taken up in detail later on.

James Denton born about 1670 died in Hempstead, 1713 to 1723-24. He married Jane Titus who was born April 1670. She was the daughter of Edmund Titus and wife Martha (Washburn). James Denton of Herrick in the Township of Hempstead, Queens, Yeoman, on Long Island, had on January 5, 1696-7 made a deed for land at Herrick which he bought of Samuel Williams and on the same date from Joseph Williams he purchased additional property. On February 5, 1801, a deed for 50 acres of upland from Peter Titus is of record. On December 16, 1710 a deed of gift from his father, Samuel Denton, Sr., is also recorded. At a town meeting April 1st, 1708, James Denton was chosen to see the highways and fences be kept in good order, for the North side of town.

The "ear mark" of James Denton was a crop on ye off ear and two nicks or slits in ye crop and a slit in ye end of ye near Ear, 4th of June 1689. On April 5, 1709 James Denton was chosen for fence viewer and Surveyor of Highways for the North side of Town, and on April 3, 1722, James Denton Sr. was chosen for fence viewer and surveyor of highways for the north side of town.

James Denton of Herrick, in Hempstead, made a will which is dated March 7, 1713, and was probated February 3, 1723-4.

The children of James and Jane (Titus) Denton, appear to have been only two, viz: James Denton who married Elizabeth Cornell, daughter of William Cornell of Hempstead; and Jane Denton of whom I have no further information.

Hannah Denton born about 1672 or 1673 died in 1748 aged about seventy-five years, in Smithtown, L. I. She married Thomas Treadwell. Thomas Treadwell was the son of John Treadwell and Elizabeth Starr, his wife. Thomas and Hannah (Denton) Treadwell were the parents of Elizabeth, Charity, Benjamin, John (died 1740), Samuel, Hannah (died Jan. 18,



1760 age 51 years), Thomas and Timothy. It is indicated that these children were born between 1695 and 1714. Timothy, John, Samuel, Benjamin and Hannah are definitely established as children of Thomas and Hannah. The others are not definitely proven. Their daughter Elizabeth married twice, first Jonathan Smith, son of John Smith (Van) and wife Ann Gildersleeve of Hempstead, by whom she had William Smith, born August 14, 1727, baptized May 14, 1729; Treadwell Smith, baptized May 14, 1729; Elijah Smith; Jonathan Smith; Richard Smith; Hannah Smith, Mary Smith, and Elizabeth Smith baptized October 1, 1739. Some of these children by Smith were not baptized until after Hannah's second marriage on May 15, 1736 to Joseph Halstead, by whom there was probably no issue.

Charity Treadwell married Benjamin Smith. They were parents of at least two children, Phebe and Mary Smith. Mary married a Mr. Titus and Phebe married March 12, 1739, Thomas Treadwell and had three known children, viz, Charity Smith, John and Benjamin Treadwell.

Benjamin Treadwell married August 25, 1727 Phoebe Platt, daughter of Major Epenetus Platt of Huntington, Long Island. By this marriage were-- Margaret Treadwell, baptized October 13, 1728; Phoebe Treadwell born July 30, 1730, baptized August 23, 1730; John Treadwell baptized September 10, 1732, and Benjamin Treadwell baptized August 10, 1734. Benjamin Treadwell married secondly, January 6, 1739 Sarah Allen, by whom he had Sarah, Samuel, William and Elizabeth, all baptized January 24, 1760 and listed as being "adults" at that time.

John Treadwell was born about 1698 and died 1740. His wife was Mary Mott, and according to the baptismal records their children were, namely, Thomas, John, Samuel and Mary, all baptized June 7, 1739. The will of John Treadwell of Hempstead made March 2, 1740 probated December 26, 1740, mentions sons Thomas, John and Samuel; daughter Mary. Brother Benjamin Treadwell and brother-in-law Joseph Mott.

Samuel Treadwell, son of Thomas and Hannah (Denton) Treadwell married Margaret Thomas. Samuel settled in Westchester County, New York. Margaret Thomas was the daughter of John and Margaret Thomas. He was the Rev. John Thomas, rector of the parish of Hempstead, Queens County, N. Y. The children of Samuel and Margaret (Thomas) Treadwell were Gloriana Treadwell born April 12, 1731; Margaret; Mary and Samuel Treadwell.

Hannah Treadwell daughter of Hannah (Denton) and Thomas Treadwell, died January 18, 1760 in the 51st year of her age. She married December 29, 1732 Edward Sands, born January 17, 1711-12 and died October 21, 1778 in the 67th year of his age. Edward Sands was son of Capt. John and Catherine Sands of Cowneck. The children of Edward Sands and wife Hannah (Treadwell) were-- Ray Sands born June 18, 1739 died February 1, 1808 age 71 years; Peggy Sands born July 18, 1742; John Sands born August 13, 1745; Edward Sands born April 13, 1748.

Edward Sands, Sr., married secondly, 15 September 1763, at Smith Kingston, Lucy Clarke. Captain John Sands and Catherine Guthrie both of Shoreham (Block Island) were married 9th September 1706 at Newport, by Samuel Cranston, Governor.

Thomas Starr Treadwell married Elizabeth Lyon and settled in Westchester County, New York. She was the daughter of John and Hannah Lyon of Rye, New York. The children of Thomas S. Treadwell and Elizabeth (Lyon) were, James, Hannah, and Sarah Treadwell.

Timothy Treadwell born 1713 youngest child of Thomas and Hannah (Denton) Treadwell, married December 14, 1738, Mary Platt, daughter of Major Epentus Platt of Huntington, Long Island, New York. Timothy Treadwell and family settled in Smithtown. The children of Timothy and Mary (Platt) Treadwell were, Thomas born February 6, 1743; Hannah, baptized July 24, 1746, and Phoebe born January 18, 1741 died March 20, 1778, who married January 8, 1766, Pheletus Smith, born October 24, 1730 died December 22, 1800, son of Obadiah Smith, born August 16, 1687 and died November 25, 1775 and his wife Susanna Stevens who died March 23, 1770.

Phoebe Denton, born about 1674, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Smith) Denton, married first, August 29, 1699, Richard Thorne. After his death she married as her second husband Robert Mitchell. Richard Thorne was the son of William and Winifred Thorne of Madman's Neck, Long Island.

The exact date when Richard Thorne died is not known. Phebe Denton Thorne married Robert Mitchell by whom no children are known to have been born.

By her first marriage, Phoebe Denton Thorne, had Hannah Thorne born February 28, 1700 died August 28, 1771, age 71 years 5 months 23 days. She married on February 17, 1717 Cornelius Van Wyck, born May 21, 1694 and died June 28, 1761 aged 67 years 2 months, 7 days. (Tombstone Inscription, First Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill Village, Dutchess Co., N. Y.). Hannah Thorne and husband Cornelius Van Wyck were parents of six children, namely, Phebe Van Wyck born December 5, 1717; Theororus Van Wyck born March 15, 1720 and died October 3, 1754; Richard Thorne Van Wyck; Cornelius Van Wyck; Margaret Van Wyck; and, Catherine Van Wyck.

Mary Thorne, daughter of Phebe and Richard Thorne, married first July 8, 1722, John Pudney by whom she had four children. Mary Thorne Pudney married secondly, March 7, 1739, John Smith.

Richard Thorne, son of Richard and Phebe Thorne, married Alicia Van Wick (Wyck) daughter of Dr. Theodore and Alicia (Brinkerhoff) Van Wyck and had five children.

Phebe Thorne, daughter of Richard and Phebe Thorne, married May 7, 1725 Micah Smith (died 1747) son of Isaac Smith and Elizabeth (Underhill). Micah Smith and Phebe Thorne were the parents of five children.

Martha Denton born about 1676, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Smith) Denton, married Ezekiel Smith.



Samuel Denton, Junior, son of Samuel Denton, Sr., the son of Rev. Richard Denton, was born about 1656 and died, leaving will dated February 14, 1717. His first wife was \_\_\_\_\_ Smith daughter of John Smith (Van) and Ann Gildersleeve. Samuel Denton, so far as known, had only one child by this marriage, born October 14, 1687, named Samuel. This child was alive in 1713.

Samuel Denton, Junior, married for his second wife Abigail Graves, daughter of Wm. Graves and wife Ann. By this marriage, Samuel Denton Jr, had a large family, namely; Ruth Denton born November 10, 1693 died young; John Denton born July 16, 1695/6 died before 1698; Martha born January 3, 1697-8 died young, a twin to Mary, who married Benjamin Smith; John Denton born January 12, 1700 died 1717; Deborah Denton born September 10, 1701 married about 1725 Joseph Carman born 1705; Twin daughters born April 23, 1704 died April 24, 1704; Joseph Denton born May 9, 1705 died \_\_\_\_\_ married Elizabeth Smith; Ceziah Denton born July 12, 1707 died young; Jemima Denton born August 5, 1709 married \_\_\_\_\_ Denton; and Anne born April 27, 1712 married John Fairwether.

Samuel Denton, Jr., recorded his stock mark the 23rd November 1684, which mark was "a crope on ye of ere slit in ye drop and a nick in the upper side of ye neere eare."

Thomas Ellison and Martha his wife of Hempstead, to Samuel Denton, Junior, of Hempstead "Certain tract of land in Herrick, known by the name of Newfield containing ye half part of a ten acre lot as it laid out being bounded on ye west by little John Smith's land and ye Est by Thomas Lestors land and on ye north and south by ye common which sd parcell land containing one half of a ten acre lot. Signed Thomas Ellison and Martha (W) (Her mark) Ellison. Hand and seals this 19th day May 1691. Signed sealed and delivered before us, Dan Denton, Hannah (H) (Her mark) Denton.

Richard Osborne of Matenacock of Hempstead Cooper, and Mary his wife to Samuel Denton Junr, of Hempstead, husbandman, equal half part of a certain ten acre lot of upland in Newfield at Herricks, bound to ye west by "little" John Smith's land on ye Est by Richard Gildersleeve & c" 23 January 1690. Signed Richard (R) Osborn. Mary (her mark) Osborn. Witnessed, Gery Fowler and Carmill Persell.

"Thomas Ellison, Senr, of Hempstead to Samuel Denton, Junior, of same town as tract of land containing fourteen acres in Hempstead, north side of ye great plains called ye Newfield bounded on ye west by Samuel Emenis land on ye north by common land on ye east by Joseph Williams", etc. 28 May 1689. Signed Thomas Ellison, Martha (W) Ellison. Witnesses, Danll Denton, Hannah (H) Denton.

Thomas Lestor and Dorcas his wife, sold to Samuel Denton, Junior, of Hempstead a certain tract of land or parcel of land lying at a place called Herricks in ye bounds of Hempstead aforesaid in ye firld called Newfield, containing ten acres more or less, as it was laid out, bounded by John Smith, Junior, Rockaland; Samuel Denton's land aforesaid which he bought of Thomas Ellison and Richard Osborn;

25 May 1691. Signed Thomas Lestor, Darcas (her mark) Lestor. Testators John Treadwell, Thomas Treadwell.

Jeremiah Smith, now of Hempstead, to Samuel Denton of Hempstead, eight acres lot north side of the town of Hempstead laid out to "Little" John Smith (Van), 7th Jany, 1700. Signed Jeremiah Smith, Hannah Smith, Witnessed Robert Hubbs, Joseph Sutton.

Benjamin Williams sold to Samuel Denton, meadow laid south side of Island in Hempstead west side of Mill River, place called near Rockaway, 23 April 1704. Signed Benjamin Williams, Joseph Williams.

CHRIST'S FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD, N. Y.



A view of the Church across Denton Green



## ABRAHAM DENTON SR.

(Son of Samuel, son of Rev. Richard Denton.)

Born about 1668 in Hempstead, New York. Married after 1698.

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Abraham Denton, Senior, was a private in Captain Cornelius Haring's Company, Orange County, New York, Oct. 25, 1715. (Orange Co., N. Y. Rec. pp. 36-37-38.)

From the Hempstead Town Records of Queens County, N. Y. we find a deed of which the following is a short abstract: "Richard Valentine, Senr, of Hempstead, sells land to Abraham Denton." March 3, 1700.

We prove that Abraham Denton, Sr. was son of Samuel Denton by a deed which in part reads: "Samuel Denton of Hempstead, yeoman, in consideration of that parental love and affection I have and do bear toward my well beloved son Abraham Denton of Hempstead, yeoman, land situated in the Township of Hempstead" & c. c. Dated 16 Day December 1710. Witnessed, Thomas Hicks, Francis Nicolls, William Willis.

Abraham Denton of Hempstead sold to John Searing land in Township of Hempstead on 16 May 1713. (Vol. 2, p. 45, Hempstead Town Records) Witness John Safford, Thos. Gildersleeve.

Abraham Denton was not married in the early part of 1698 as he was living at home and was single.

The records further show that on the 25th day of June 1713, between John Johnston, Gentleman; George Wilcoks, Gentleman; Johannes Janson, Esquire; John Crook and Nathaniel Marston, Merchants, Executors of the Will of Michael Hawdon, late of the City of New York, Gentleman, deceased, of the one part and Charles Mott, Cornelius Cooper, Timothy Halstead, Jonathan Seaman, Thomas Barber, Timothy Halstead, Junior, Caleb Halstead, James Sering, Jonah Halstead, Isaac Seaman, Abraham Denton, William Osbourn, Nathaniel Osbourn, John Sering, Thomas Williams, John Wood, and Samuel Denton, Yeomen, of the other part, a tract of land in Orange County, commonly known by the name of Rashyathawoke, bound on the east by Christians patent, on the north by a creek called Sheainawerk or Peasqua which runs under a great hill and c. barren plains and c. One thirty sixth part to Abraham Denton; One forty fifth part of Samuel Denton, etc.

The Orange County, N. Y. records show, "Abraham Denton, Senr, of the Precinct of Haverstraw in the County of Orange", sells land in Haverstraw to "son Abraham Denton", signed, sealed and delivered in presence of Jonas Denton, John Denton. This is dated January 10, 1729-30. Recorded at the request of Mr. Abraham Denton, Junr, this 27 Dec. 1730.

This last deed was recorded after the death of Abraham Denton, Senior.

The name of the wife of Abraham Denton, Senr, is not shown in any place or in connection with any documents we have been able to locate up to this time.

Neither is it clear just how many children Abraham



Denton Senior, had, with the exception of his son Abraham Denton, Junior.

The following clue seems to lead one to believe that there were other children, at least one other. In the "History of Rockland County, New York" by Rev. David Cole, of Yonkers, N. Y. page 346, it is stated--- extract from the record of the Tappan and Clarkstown Churches, that Martha Halstead probably a sister of Abraham Denton Jr, had a daughter born and baptized in the year 1722.

Therefore so far as has been learned the children of Abraham Denton, Senior and wife (name unknown) were:

1. Abraham Denton born about 1700, died leaving will in Shenandoah County, Virginia, dated 1774.

2. Martha Denton married Jonas Halstead and had Hanna Halstead born January 29, 1722 baptized April 10, in Tappan, Church witnesses Jean Denton.

ABRAHAM DENTON JR.

(Son of Abraham, son of Samuel, son of Rev. Richard Denton)

Born about 1700 in New York. Died Shenandoah County,  
Virginia, Will 1774. Married Mary.

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At a "Court of General Session of the Peace held at Orange Town in and for the County of Orange the Thirtieth day of April Anno Domini 1734, The King Against Abrm Denton Junr..... The Defend being called appears the Presentment being Read to him the Defendt Confesses, the fact & pleads Guilty and submits himself to the Mercy of the Court. The court orders and asses of fine of Three pounds and that the Defendt stand committed until fine and fees be paid."

From the Hempstead Town records of Queens County, N. Y. we find a Deed which show Richard Valentine, Senr, of Hempstead sells land to Abraham Denton, March 3, 1700.

We already know that Samuel Denton deeded for "love and affection" to his son Abraham Denton certain lands, and that Abraham Denton received a deed from his father Abraham Denton Sr, for certain lands.

According to records left by the Hon. John S. Denton of Tennessee, transcribed by Mrs. Edythe Whitley, Genealogist-Historian, of Nashville, Tennessee, page 283, 284, etc. "Abraham Denton Sr, of Long Island and Orange Co. New York, born in Hempstead, L. I." etc. "In a deed to Abraham Denton Jr, which begins "Recorded at the request of Mr. Abraham Denton, Jun, this 27th day of December, Anno. Dom. 1730" Married after 1698 for he was living at home single 1698. Abraham Denton witness to Christian Funkhousers deed land on Holmans Creek, Frederick County, Virginia 1755. December 1729-30. Abraham Denton Jr. of New York and Virginia died in 1774 in Dunmore County, Virginia (now Shenandoah). Married Mary. Abraham Denton was a Captain in the Colonial or provincial Army, about 1766 in Virginia".

Shortly after becoming involved with the law in New York 1729-30, Abraham Denton, along with some close relatives, left that country and headed for the Virginia Valley. In Western Virginia, Augusta County, and the upper Virginia Valley, we find Abraham Denton and family, also about the same time we observe Jonas Denton and family, which probably consisted of Samuel Denton, Robert Denton, James Denton, John Denton. These names all begin to appear in the records of Virginia from 1739 to 1752. The Seaman family also begins to appear on the records of that same section of Virginia, as well as other family names which are observed in Hempstead and other sections of New York, where the Dentons were active.

In a letter written by Wm. B. Denton, Detroit, Michigan, dated March 10, 1930 addressed to the Hon. John S. Denton, Franklin, Tennessee, now a part of the Whitley files, it is stated that The name Jonas Denton sometimes appears as Jonathan Denton in Virginia. Also that Jonas



Denton, first mentioned in the Virginia records had a grandson of the same name.

In the general Index to deeds, in Frederick County, Virginia the following are found:

3 May 1768, Abe Denton, Sr. to Abe Denton Jr. Vol. 12. page 254. This deed recites "Doctor Abraham Denton" to Abe Denton, Jr. his son, land on Tomsbrook. This certainly indicates that Abraham Denton who came down from New York was a "Doctor".

3 May 1768, Abraham Denton Jr. from Abraham Denton, Sr. Vol. 12, page 254.

5 September 1769, Abe Denton Jr. to John Mauk, Vol. 13. page 132.

5 September 1769. Abe Denton Jr. to George Weaver, Vol. 13. page 135.

7 August 1771, Abe Denton and Mary his wife, to John G. Storm, Vol. 15. Page 61.

5 August 1772, Abraham Denton from George Bowman, Exrs. Vol. 15. page 364.

4 April 1775, Abraham Denton Sr. from Isaac Riddle. Vol. 16. page 632.

It is perfectly clear that there were two Abraham Dentons in Frederick County, Virginia, during this period of time, one styled Abe Snr, and the other Abe Denton, Junior.

In Shenandoah County, Virginia deeds at Woodstock, Virginia, again is to be noted, Abraham Denton Sr. yeoman, and Mary his wife to Frederick Bossoman, deed. Book A page 132.

Then again in Shenandoah County, deeds C page 516, 1777: John Tipton and Wm. Plumbee to George Seller. 19 October 1778. 5 shillings, same as conveyed Abm. Denton, deceased by Isaac Riddle and Geo. Bowman, executors of Geo. Bowman, deceased. 1 August 1767, land West side North River of Shenandoah.

Abraham Denton of Shenandoah County, Virginia left a will dated August 12, 1774, same probated September 27, 1774, in which he was called "Captain" in (1766). The executor of the will was William Reno. The executors bond recorded in Will Book "A" page 66 and the Executor appointed and recorded Will Book "A" page 74. Dunmore (now Shenandoah County) Virginia.

The best authority on Shenandoah County, is probably the Honorable John W. Wayland, Ph. D, the author of "A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia", published by the Shenandoah Publishing House, 1927, Strasburg, Virginia, in which the Denton family is mentioned numerous times. On page 105, Wayland in referring to the old minute book at Woodstock, says at a court held for Dunmore County on Tuesday, September the \_\_\_\_ 1774, the following gentlemen justices were present: Joseph Pugh, Henry Nelson, Abram Keller, Jonathan Langdon, and Jacob Holman. Various matters

of ordinary routine (probating deeds, appointing appraisers for estates, docketing cases for trial, etc.) were taken up. Among the names of persons who appeared before the court or were affected or named in one capacity or another, were the following: etc. John Mauk, Elizabeth Bowman, Jacob Bowman (deceased), Valentine Smith, George Cooper, Abraham Denton (deceased), Elizabeth Smith, William Reno, Mary Denton, John Snapp, and others.

It is notated here, that many of these family names also appear in New York in connection with the various members of the Denton family.

On page 598 of Mr. Wayland's excellent work, it says: "Capt. John Denton was militia captain for the Shenandoah area during the French and Indian War. His widow married John Odell. Abraham Denton died 1774, left: Abraham, Phebe, married William Plumley; and Martha married (1) Dr. James Moore, of Shenandoah, and (2) as his second wife Col. John Tipton. Some of the Dentons joined the Shenandoah group in East Tennessee. James Denton was justice of Washington County, Territory of the United States of America South of the River Ohio (now Tennessee) 1791. It is thought John Bernard Denton, born 1806 in Tennessee, noted Methodist minister of the Texan frontier of 1836, orator, and Indian fighter, killed by Indians, may be descended from East Tennessee Dentons. Denton County, Texas, is named in John Bernard Denton's honor.

The children of Abraham Denton and wife Mary, are named in the will of 1774, as follows:

1. Joseph Denton, born about 1725 probably in New York, before his father moved to the Virginia Valley, married Ann Hogg.

2. Abraham Denton, born about 1730, married Mourning Hogg.

3. Phebe Denton, born in Shenandoah (or Dunmore) County, Virginia, married William Plumley, also spelled Plumblee.

4. Martha Denton, born in the Virginia Valley, married first Dr. James Moore, and secondly she became the second wife of Col. John Tipton.

5. Samuel Denton, born in Virginia Valley, married and left a number of descendants.

Joseph, Abraham, and Martha of the above family will be taken up in separate chapters.

Samuel Denton had a son Benjamin Denton who died about 1845, leaving Samuel, Isaac, Jefferson, Shipman, Sallie, Rebecca. The information in hand on this group of the Denton Family is so fragmentary that at this time it will not be attempted to give a detailed outline.



## ABRAHAM DENTON

(Son of Abraham, Son of Abraham, Son of Samuel, Son of  
Rev. Richard Denton)

Born about 1730, probably in Shenandoah County, Virginia.  
Died about 1825 to 1830 in Obion County, Tennessee. No will.  
Married about 1766 or 1767, Mourning Hogg.

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"History of Shenandoah County, Virginia" by John W. Wayland, published 1927, already referred to, page 195, "In a manuscript volume called the 'Romney and Winchester Pay Roll' page 29-30 is a list of the men in Capt. John Tipton's Company, who were in service early in the Revolution. John Tipton was a very prominent citizen of Shenandoah County, and it is probable that most of his men were from the same county. The author is indebted to the manuscript collection of Hon. Boutwell Dunlap of San Francisco for a copy of,

### Captain John Tipton's Roll

John Tipton, Captain	Thomas Cummins
Francis McFall, Sergeant	John Harding
William Artrip, Sergeant	Cornelius Campbell
Mathias McGlanary, Sergeant	Benjamin Johnson
John Broom	Henry Parrott
Joseph Hopkins	Benjamin Bartley
<u>Joseph Denton (deserted)</u>	William Slaughter
<u>Thomas Denton</u>	John Hunt
George Parrot	John Williams
Elijah Osborn	John Pierceeful
George Parkerson(deserted)	Willaim Wallace
Samuel Parrot	John Finney
William Mains	Jacob Kirkland (deserted)
Jacob Spangler	Casper McKentir (deserted)
Lanty Coil	Peter Ammon
George Wayly	Jacob Rouse
Benjamin North	Henry Rouse
Joseph Rogers	Robert Wells
Philip Fine	Richard Johnson
Morris Philip	<u>Jonas Denton</u>
William Maggott	David Job
John Cunningham	Samuel Odell
Charles McClain	Jesse Job
Jacob Pennivit	Joseph Bragg
John Needham	Benjamin Bruice

The pay given John Tipton and his men was for terms of service from 22 to 158 days on October 1775, and they were paid off at Romney or Winchester.

In 1775 Peter Hog spelled with only one "g" was living in Shenandoah County, but the definite connection with Gideon Hogg, into which family Abraham, and Joseph Denton married is not known at this time.

Before the Revolution had hardly begun, a large number of early settlers in the Virginia Valley, and their descendants, began moving southward, to what was then called the Holston Country. They penetrated as far south as the Watauga, where they made a settlement. At the time of this migration the Watauga Country was a part of North Carolina; still a wilderness.

Members of the Tipton family were among the first to migrate from the Valley, to Watauga, bringing with them from time to time numerous other families from the Northern Virginia Valley. Some of the families who came ventured farther into North Carolina, where an earlier settlement had been made along the Yadkin, and in Rowan County. A few even went beyond the Yadkin eastward; however, the majority who did not go to Watauga, sought their homes in other sections of Western North Carolina.

Just when Gideon Hogg and members of his family came into North Carolina, is not certain. The 1790 census does not list him as a resident of Caswell County, North Carolina; however, in 1793 in the month of April, Gideon Hogg died in Caswell County, leaving a will, in which he names his wife Judith, and children, John, William, Elizabeth, Thomas, Agnes, Gideon, Ann Denton, Mourning Denton, Judith Gibson, Rebecca Shelton, and Mary Yates.

The exact date that Abraham Denton came into Western North Carolina, Rowan County, is not certain. He was living there in 1774, for on August 4th of that year he was appointed a member of the County Committee of safety for Rowan which consisted of twenty-five members. In Davidson County, formerly a part of Rowan, was a place of about one hundred inhabitants called "Denton" which is believed to have been named for this family of Dentons.

From the land records of the Watauga Purchase in what is now East Tennessee, we find that the Cherokee Indian nation on March 19th, 1775, made a deed of the Wataugah Purchase to Charles Robertson of the settlement of Wataugah. The lands thus conveyed to Robertson were afterwards regularly patented to the settlers; occupancy had probably heretofore given ownership; the first patentee was Joshua Haughton, dated May 7, 1775; of the other patentees in their order of being granted a patent to their lands the 33rd was to a Mr. Denton.

The western portion of North Carolina, was called Morgan District. It was in this district that Abraham Denton lived in the year 1783, and where he seems to have been a man of considerable influence.

The North Carolina Colonial Records. Vol. 24. page 535, Chapter XLIV, 1783, show, "An Act to incorporate trustees for two accademical schools in the district of Morgan.

1. Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina and it is hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same, That Mr. James Templeton, president and Waightstill Avery, Charles McDowell, William Moore, Alexander Irwin, James Greenlee, Benjamin Ellage, Abraham



Denton, and David Vance, esquires, be and they are hereby formed and incorporated into a body politic and corporate, by the name of president and trustee of Morgan Academy, in the County of Burke, and by the name shall have perpetual succession and common seal, and the said president and trustees, and their successors shall take the same oath for their qualification, mutatis mutandis, and shall have, hold, exercise and enjoy, all the powers, authorities, and privileges, which the president and trustees of Liberty Hall, in the County of Mecklenburg possess and are invested with by virtue of an Act of Assembly for their incorporation, passed the Ninth day of May in the year of Our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven."\* \* \*

The above clearly shows that Abraham Denton was in Burke County, North Carolina in 1783. Burke County, North Carolina was established in 1777 from Rowan County. Unfortunately the greater portion of the Burke County records have been destroyed.

Washington County, North Carolina (now Tennessee) was established by the North Carolina Assembly, in November 1777. It was formed from Washington District which had been detached from Wilkes and Burke Counties, (N. C.) and included all the present State of Tennessee, although a part of it was thought at that time, to be in Virginia. At least eight years prior to the establishment of this county, permanent settlement had taken place on the Watauga. The Watauga Association was formed in 1772, and Henderson's Purchase of the Transylvania Country was made from the Indians by treaty signed in 1775 on the Watauga.

In April 1783, Greene County was created by the State of North Carolina from a part of Washington. Settlements in this part of Washington County were begun in 1778, or earlier. The first session of court of Greene County, was held on the Third Monday in August 1783.

The records of Washington County, for the Court of Pleas and Quarter Session, 1776-1792 tell us on page 114, August 25, 1780 that Abraham Denton was on the jury. The same book of records, page 116, 1780 show an Order that a fine of one hundred pounds be imposed upon John Chisoln, esqr., for being guilty of striking and beating of Abraham Denton in the court yard; also disquieting the peace and decorom of the court and that the clerk issue an execution for the same.

Page 117. of the same, 1780. Order that Abraham Denton have leave to build a Grist Mill on Sanking Creek on his own land and after the same being so built shall be entitled to take and receive tole which is due and entitled to be received by Public Gristmills.

The name Sanking Creek is now known as Sinking Creek. This was very near the place which Colonel John Tipton had settled. The old Tipton home is now a Tennessee State Shrine. From this bit of information we have a very clear picture as to where Abraham Denton lived while in East Tennessee.

On page 218 of the same records of Washington County,



dated August 4, 1783 we find Abraham Denton was serving on the jury. Also on page 219, August 1784, a district was laid out to work on the afore said road (viz) Beginning at the head of Little Sinking Creek runing to Nathan Davises from thence to Abraham Dentons and from thence to along the waters of Buffalo Creek and from thence to Valentine Seviars and then to Reeves and all along the aforesaid line between the aforesaid line and the Iron Mountain including the aforesaid families and also all between the aforesaid Iron Mountain as high as James Stuarts, Edmd Williams appointed overseer of the aforesaid road from Jas Stuarts to the Sycamore Shoals. Joshua Houghton, Junr, is appointed overseer from thence to the head of Indian Creek.

Page 228 of the same, shows that Abraham Denton served on the jury on Nov. 3, 1783. On page 380, May 1789 court, a deed was proved from Garrett Reasnor to Abraham Denton for 150 acres of land.

At the same time Abraham Denton was serving in the above capacities, Isaac Denton was on the jury 1782, and Nov. 5, 1787 Isaac Denton is mentioned in connection with road work. In this record he is called Isaac, Senr. Again in 1790 Isaac Denton, Sr. was to view a road. (Pages 163, 175, 294, 430).

From "Goodspeed" "History of Tennessee", page 189, I take the following: " 'The State of Franklin'. The Revolutionary War was over and independence won etc. Accounts were constantly being presented to the General Assembly for the defense of the frontier settlements against Indians, etc. Crimination and recrimination were mutually and indulged in by North Carolina and her western counties, etc. The inhabitants of these western counties, whose exposed situation seemed not to be appreciated and whose honor seemed thus to be imprignated, remembering that in the Bill of Rights adopted at the same time with the State Constitution, a clause had been inserted authorizing the formation of one or more new States out of this western territory, etc. etc. For the purpose of an attempt at extrication it was proposed that each captains Company elect two representatives, and that these, representatives assemble to deliberate upon the condition of affairs and if possible devise some general plan adopted to the emergency. Accordingly these representatives met August 23, 1783 in Jonesborough. Among the deputies from Greene County, Abraham Denton."

A book entitled "The Lost State of Franklin" by Judge Samuel Williams, published 1933, page 30. says, North Carolina Convention of the Holston Country 1782. The county conventions named delegates to a general convention to be held at Jonesborough. Delegates: Greene County. etc. Abraham Denton. etc. Convention held August 23, 1784.

Ramsey's "Annal's of Tennessee; published 1853, reprint 1926, page 286, Chapter IV, The State of Franklin. 1783: Convention delegates from Greene County, Abraham Denton.



Let's go back for a moment to the North Carolina Colonial and State Records, Vol. 9, page 1073, Sept. 23, 1774, a meeting of committee at Salisbury on 23 Sept. 1774, Resolved that the following persons constitute the said committee, etc: Abraham Denton, etc.

We have traced Abraham Denton through the various stages of the development of Western North Carolina and down to placing him in Greene County where on August 23, 1783 Abraham Denton was a delegate from that place with other delegates to meet at Jonesborough.

Humor, has it's place in history. The faithful clerk of the counties recorded many an incident of the day occurring in the region; and our little hook and line bring in the following; "Whereas, in an affray that happened on the second day of September, 1793, between Wm. Pillow and Abram Denton, in Fighting, the said Pillow bit off the upper end of Denton's right year, upon which said Pillow came into open court together with Abram Denton and the said Pillow openly declared that he bit off his year aforesaid, without any intention of injuring said Denton." That is the whole of the entry, and seems to have been placed there in perpetuum reinmmoriam, and therefore, by the historian is not to be overlooked, under an old law of North Carolina, the act of maiming was a penal offence, for which Pillow might have been punished. But, we Judge that there was a greater desire to have this "affray" put on record, to save Denton from ever being charged as having been "Cropped" for offences under another old law. These evidently were old citizens, old soldiers, and old friends; Denton had his "Station" not far from town and Pillow "circulated promiscuously". We presume they had been to the Red Heifer and "embraced this opportunity and each other". ("History of Middle Tennessee on Life and Times of Gen. James Robertson" by A. W. Putman, Esq. President, of the Tennessee Historical Society. Nashville, 1859 page 405).

The records are not very clear, but it seems that Abraham Denton came into the Cumberland settlement, where he remained for a short time.

In Washington County, Tennessee, at the same time as Abraham Denton, was Joseph Denton, on August 26, 1778; James Denton, August 26, 1778 and 1782; Samuel Denton, August 26, 1778; Abraham Denton first mentioned 28 August 1780; John Denton May 1781 and Isaac Denton, May 1782.

We know that Abraham Denton married Mourning Hogg, daughter of Gideon Hogg of Caswell County, North Carolina. We do not know when Gideon Hogg removed to North Carolina, nor how long he had lived in Caswell County, before his death. We do know that Gideon Hogg was in North Carolina during the Revolution, for the North Carolina State and Colonial Records Vol. 16 page 1083, show, Abraham Shepherd, Colonel 10th Regiment, Gideon Hogg private, Coleman's Company, enlisted 1 January 1782, for 12 months. Mrs. Mourning Denton's sister Rebecca married Bryan Shelton who died in Caswell County, N. C. in 1799 leaving a will, in which he names wife Rebecca, and children Leonard and



Clever Shelton.

Abraham Denton seems to have sold his lands and moved from Greene and Washington Counties, Tennessee, about the time that Tennessee became a State in 1796. He is not mentioned in the records after that date. It is not clear as to where he lived from 1796 to 1809 the year he appears in White County, Tennessee. There is a tradition that he was in Kentucky during that period of time, yet nothing has been found to establish or verify the tradition. There is much evidence of his residence in White County, from 1809 to about 1821, probably a little earlier as he is not shown in the 1820 census of White County. He was living in Hickman County in 1821 and was in Perry County, shortly thereafter. Perry County was created Nov. 24, 1821 from a part of Hickman County, and parts of other counties. It is believed that Denton was in that part of Hickman County which became Perry County, and therefore, he did not move but merely was changed due to the formation of the new county. About 1827 or 1828 he moved from Perry County to West Tennessee and was living in Obion County, at the time of his death. He was then a very elderly man, and no doubt living with some member of his family, for he does not appear in any records of Obion County, that I have been able to find. He left no will, nor is there anything regarding an estate he may have left, therefore, it is believed that he died without property. The place of his burial is unknown except from members of the family who state that he died and was buried in Obion County, Tennessee.

Abraham Denton and wife Mourning Denton had a large family, twelve children are accounted for. The Honorable John S. Denton, and other descendants of this branch of the family have left to their descendants a memorial in the collection of papers, letters, and other material, giving the children of Abraham and Mourning, which would otherwise have been lost entirely. (See letters):

1. John Denton, married Mary Moore.
2. Isaac Denton born in North Carolina, and killed by Indians.
3. Jeremiah Denton born 1779 died September 1847, married about 1805 Elizabeth Griggs who died July 4, 1828. He was called "Big Jerry". Elizabeth had a sister Peggy who married Jas. Wilson. Her brothers were George and James. Another sister, Elizabeth, married John Nash. One sister, Eleanor Grigg, never married.
4. Abraham Denton, married Polly Moore.
5. Samuel Denton, married Eunice Conger. He located on Cedar Creek near Linden in Perry County, Tennessee. Children: Elisha Tipton, Elijah C., Betsey, Eunice, Sallie, Tempey, Mourning, Lucy and Jennie Denton.
6. Elijah Denton born Dec. 20, 1782 died October 25, 1870, married about 1805 Sally Houff (Huff)



- born April 16, 1788, died April 23, 1842.
7. Sally Denton, married William Hayden Kendall. They lived near Moss, Tennessee, and Boles, Kentucky. They were grandparents of Alexander Kendall.
  8. Nancy M. Denton, married Samuel A. Moore, Jr. They were the parents of Denton Moore of Jackson County, Tennessee.
  9. Agnes Denton, married Garrett Moore. They lived near Boles, Kentucky and are buried near Boles. Garrett Moore died 1852.
  10. Margaret (Peggy) Denton, married Jesse Moore and located in Perry County, Tennessee.
  11. Martha Denton, married Cornelius Clancy.
  12. Bettie Denton, married James Moore.

Jeremiah Denton, son of Abraham Denton and wife Mourning (Hogg) Denton, was born in 1799, and died in September 1847. Jeremiah married about 1805 Elizabeth Griggs who died July 4, 1828, daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ Griggs and wife Mary. He was called "Big Jerry Denton", and lived in White County. His cousin Jeremiah Denton, son of Joseph and Ann (Hogg) Denton, also lived in White County. They lived very near each other. In order to distinguish the two Jeremiah Denton's, one was called "Little Jerry" and the other "Big Jerry".

The children of "Big Jerry Denton" and Elizabeth Griggs were:

1. Blanton Denton, who married about 1835 or 1836 Lucinda (last name unknown). They lived in Alabama for a time, later in Texas where he died. They had a son in Arkansas during the "Civil" War who was in General Thompson's Confederate Command.

2. Hightower Denton, married Nancy Witt in Madison County, Alabama about 1837-8. He settled on his father's farm where he died. Nancy died in 1875. Their children were: Mary Ann, Cynthia, Mary, Holland, Martin, John and another son, name unknown.

3. Sterling Denton married Juda Provience. She died in 1872 and he in 1880. Among their children was a son Erasmus and several daughters.

4. Overton Denton married Mrs. Martha Anderson. They removed to Texas where they died leaving children.

5. Susannah Denton, married Wm. Knowles. She died 19 February 1891, and he passed away about 1850. They were parents of H. D. Knowles and another child.

6. Wayne Denton, died in infancy.

7. Holland Denton, married twice, (1) Cynthia De Jarnett, and secondly Mrs. Lucinda Barnes Whitson, a widow.

8. Hardin Denton married Malinda Martin. He was left a widower with five children, three daughters and two sons.

9. Mourning Denton, born about 1823 was living in 1895 aged about 75 years, unmarried.



10. Edy Denton married Jerry Webb. She was left a widow with three children.

11. Abraham Denton died in infancy.

Holland Denton, was born November 6, 1818, married September 2, 1851 Cynthia DeJarnett, as his first wife. She died May 4, 1852. Holland Denton took as his second wife, January 6, 1863, Mrs. Lucinda Barnes Whitson, daughter of John Barnes and wife Margaret. Holland Denton wrote a letter in 1895 telling of the relation to other Dentons (See letter). Holland Denton was reared on a farm. He went to school to his cousin John S. Denton who was considered highly accomplished as a teacher. Holland began teaching at the age of about seventeen years, and taught in the counties of White, DeKalb and Jackson, in Tennessee. His teaching career ended about 1843, and he became Deputy Circuit Court Clerk in 1845. He was elected Sheriff of Jackson County, in March 1846 serving two years; He studied law and taught school again for a few years afterwards. On September 2, 1851 he married Miss Cynthia B. DeJournatt (DeJarnette) who died in 1852. Holland then practiced law in Jackson and adjoining counties, and in 1855 removed to Cookeville, Putnam County, Tennessee. In 1857 he became a successful candidate for the State Senate for the Counties of White, Jackson and Macon. He was defeated for re-election in 1859. On January 6, 1853, Mr. Denton married secondly, Lucinda Whitson, widow of John Whitson, and daughter of John and Margaret Barnes. He entered the Confederate Army in the "War of the Rebellion" as a Second Lieutenant in Captain H. H. Dillard's Company of the 16th Regiment of Tennessee Infantry Volunteers, commanded by Col. J. H. Savage and served twelve months. Mrs. Cynthia Denton died April 15, 1884, leaving four children, viz -

1. Althea, born December 19, 1860, married W. W. Vaden, Sept. 22, 1892.

2. Alice, born April 3, 1863 died July 1, 1885.

3. John Savage Denton, born November 30, 1865, married December 31, 1901, Hettie Farr, born October 24, 1875 in London, Canada, died May 28, 1949, Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee. She was daughter of David Farr and Hannah Kenning. Both Mr. and Mrs. Denton are buried in Franklin. Mr. Denton spent the greater part of his life in various capacities of importance with the Federal Government and lived in Washington, D. C. He was born in Putnam County, Tennessee, but after his retirement from government service he made his home in Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee. During the years Mr. Denton worked for the government he had the opportunity to meet many Denton descendants scattered over the United States, and made a record of such information as each could give him about the Denton family. These letters, copies of wills, abstracts of various documents, and many fragments of information he turned over to Mrs. Edythe Whitley, in 1933 for the purpose of putting them in some shape for preservation. This was done, one copy being given to



J. S. Denton along with the return of the papers, and a second copy retained by the compiler and now a part of the "Whitley Genealogical Collection" in Nashville, Tennessee, from which a large portion of our story has been taken.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Denton had an only child, a daughter, Mary Farr Denton, born October 18, 1902 in Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee, married October 21, 1924, Frank Lester Murrey, born July 27, 1900 in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, the son of Harry Pollard Murrey born April 17, 1871 in Williamson County, and died May 18, 1955 in Nashville, married Lale Lester born May 18, 1875 in Nashville, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Lester and wife Ruth Winford. Harry Pollard Murrey was the son of John Buchanan Murrey and wife Gertrude Pollard. Frank Lester Murrey had two brothers, Harry P. Murrey, Jr., born January 22, 1899 in Davidson County, who married Lillian Powell; and, John B. Murrey, born October 30, 1902 died October 31, 1914, Nashville, Tennessee.

4. Cynthia Denton, sister of John Savage Denton, died Feb. 8, 1894 unmarried.

Elijah Denton, son of Abraham and Mourning (Hogg) Denton, married Sally Huff (Heoff), born December 20, 1782 and died October 25, 1870, married about 1805. Mrs. Sally Huff Denton was born April 15, 1788 and died April 23, 1842. Their children were:

1. Martha Denton born about 1806.

2. John S. Denton, born about 1807 died December 8, 1893. He was a school teacher. His children were - Elijah Denton of Doyle Station, Tennessee; and, Dr. Samuel Denton of Buffalo Valley, Putnam County, Tennessee.

3. Tidence L. Denton, born about 1811 died May 17, 1892. He was named in honor of the Reverend Tidence Lane, pioneer Baptist preacher of Tennessee.

4. Rachel Denton, born about 1813.

5. Elijah W. Denton, born March 15, 1815 died March 22, 1889, married September 18, 1834 Malvina Haltman (Halterman), born April 19, 1817 died December 7, 1880. They were the parents of thirteen children.

6. Sally Denton born about 1816.

7. Levi B. Denton, born about 1819 died February 1894.

8. Mary Denton, married Mr. Anderson.

9. Lydia Denton.

10. Betsey Denton.

11. James R. Denton born about 1829 died May 1865.

12. Monroe Denton.

13. Samuel Denton.

14. Anna Denton.

15. Agnes Denton.

16. Amanda Denton.

1379712

In a letter, undated, signed Ben F. Denton, from Peter's Landing, Perry County, Tennessee, addressed to Dr. H. Denton, it is stated that his grandfather was Ben Denton who came from White County, Tennessee, to Hickman County, then to Perry and later died in Mississippi, possibly in

Marshall County. He continues and says that his father Samuel Denton, was born in White County, Tennessee, 1801 and also that his father's grandfather was a Samuel Denton. Ben F. Denton's father left White County, when eleven years old and in 1817 arrived at Cedar Creek in Perry County. He had nine children, Abner, John, Ben, Isaac, Nancy, Jane, Milley, Sallie and Mary. Milley married David Bunch. Sallie married John Bunch. Mary married George Bunch. Ben F. Denton also states, in the same letter that another Sam Denton lived and died on Cedar Creek and was a cousin of his grandfather, and was older than his father. This Samuel Denton married Unice Conger, and, had six children, Tipton, Elijah, Betsy, Unice (Eunice), Sallie and Tempy.

John T. Denton, wrote a letter, August 13, 1895 from Cedar Creek, Tennessee, to Holland Denton, Cookeville, Tennessee, in which he stated that his father was Samuel Denton who married Mary Luran Wiley in 1854; that he was the oldest born Jan. 10, 1855 and married Sept. 27, 1874 Martha C. Boonch by whom he had nine children, viz, Lesley V., James C., Nannie Lee, Samuel T., Isaac F., William A., John R., Elmer J., and Joseph J. The next oldest was Caroline, who died very young, and the next died before she was married; the next child was named Mary C. who married A. Broadway, and the next was Samuel J. who married Sally Graves.

Agnes Denton, daughter of Abraham and Mourning (Hogg) Denton, married Garrett Moore and had the following issue:

1. Nancy Moore who married Minatree Whitson.
2. Peggy (Margaret) Moore, married Ben Malone.
3. Mahala Moore, married Welcome Pennington.
4. Elizabeth Moore, born 1819 died 1888 married Samuel Plumley (Plumlee or also spelled Plumbee). He was born 1823 and died 1895. Their children were:
  - (a). Grundy Plumlee who married "Sis" Neely and went to Oklahoma.
  - (b). Dr. Harvey Plumlee married Nancy Harlan. Went to Oklahoma.
  - (c). Newton Moore Plumlee 1852-1933, married Josephine McCain.
  - (d). Sally Plumlee married Matt Payne.
  - (e). Minerva Plumlee married first Samuel Comer of near Gamaliel, Monroe County, Kentucky; her second husband was Jim Roberts. She was the grandmother of William C. Stone, Sr., of Nashville, Tennessee. Melissa Harlan Plumlee married John Henry Stone Jr. and their children were Hubert E. Stone born 1901 married Florence Pickett of North Carolina; William Curtis Stone, born 1902 married Mabel Virginia Woolard, born 1909 (child: Wm. C. Jr. born 1933); and Thomas Buford Stone born 1903 living at Sparta, Tennessee, unmarried.
  - (f). Roscoe Plumlee married Grace Mitchell. Went to Oklahoma.
  - (g). Lee Plumlee married Nettie Mitchell. Went to Oklahoma.



5. Berry Moore, married \_\_\_\_\_ Birdwell, and secondly, Sarah Cherry.

6. Jesse Moore, married Bernetta McClerran.

7. Indemon Moore.

8. Sally Moore married Argil Jarvis.

Newton Moore Plumlee and Josephine McCain had a large family of children, namely-

1. Amos Plumlee, born 1877 married Allie Stone and had two children.

2. William Plumlee born 1878 died at 14 months of age.

3. Docia Plumlee born 1880 married Ben Franklin Stone, uncle of Wm. C. Stone, Sr. of Nashville, Tennessee. They had one daughter.

4. Melissa Harlan Plumlee born 1882 married John Henry Stone, Jr. (1873-1944) and had three children (see above).

5. Millard P. Plumlee born 1883 married Olive Hamilton, had three children.

6. Vitia Plumlee born 1885 married John W. Elliott, of Burnside, Kentucky. They had two children.

7. Aza Plumlee born 1887 never married, died about 1939.

8. Belva Plumlee born 1890 married Ward G. Rush. Reside Tulare, California. One son.

9. Asa Plumlee born 1892 married Mayne Hayes; lived in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Three children.

10. Eula Plumlee born 1895 married Georgia Stone. Five children.

11. Lura Plumlee born 1898 married Porter Elliott; reside Sommerset, Kentucky. Five children.

12. Chester Plumlee born 1900 died 1913.

Phebe Denton, born about 1737 to 1741 (sister of Abraham Denton, who married Mourning Hogg, and a sister of Joseph Denton whose wife was Ann Hogg, married William Plumley about 1762. Their children were - Denton Plumley born 1763; John Plumley born 1766; and, Stephen Plumley born 1769.

John Plumley (Plumlee) son of William Plumley and wife Phebe Denton, was the first white settler in the present bounds of Clay County, Tennessee, west of Cumberland River. John Plumley married and his children were:

1. William (Billie) Plumley, wounded at Battle of New Orleans, January 7, 1815. Remained crippled. His cabin now a corn crib on farm of Mrs. Calvin Moss at Plumlee (Denton's) Cross Roads near Moss, Tennessee. William married Elizabeth Moss and their children were:

(a) Peggy Plumlee married Billie Whitson.

(b) Adeline Plumlee married Tom Sims.

(c) Sam Plumlee married Elizabeth Moore (See Garrett Moore and Agnes Denton).

(d) Dave Plumlee married Mrs. Sally White (nee. Sally Meadows).

(e) Stephen Plumlee married Virginia Johnson.

2. Stephen Plumlee.

3. Denton Plumlee.
4. Archibald (Archie) Plumlee.
5. Johnnie Plumlee.
6. Ben Alvin Plumlee.
7. Thompson Plumlee.
8. Isaac Plumlee.
9. Kendall Plumlee. Isaac and Kendall were twins.

One of these brothers, either Archie or Isaac, died at New Orleans, January 8, 1815, from battle wounds. Some of these Plumlees moved to Moore's Cove, White County, near their Denton and Moore relatives. Moore's Cove is over the mountain from Doyle, Tennessee.

Thomas and Samuel Moore, both veterans of the Revolution, lived in the 15th District (Moore's Cove) of White County, in 1832 (Thomas was 70 and Samuel was 72). According to Mr. William Curtis Stone, Sr., who stated that in 1945 he talked with Indemon Moore (Garrett Moore also had son named Indemon) of Doyle, Tennessee, (he was 75 and Alexander Moore about 70) relative to the pioneer Moores and was told that Thomas Moore reared a large family and that his son Garrett Moore moved to Jackson County after marrying Agnes Denton. Five Dentons married five Moores and there is reason to believe these were all children of Thomas Moore.



## JOSEPH DENTON

(Son of Abraham, son of Abraham, son of Samuel, son of  
Rev. Richard Denton)

Born Probably in New York, about 1725,  
Died Stockton Valley, Kentucky, shortly after or about 1800.

Married in North Carolina about 1765, Ann Hogg,  
Born about 1730,  
Died about 1800. or earlier.

Ann Hogg was the daughter of Gideon Hogg and sister of Mourning Hogg who married Joseph's brother Abraham Denton.

According to the Denton Records of Mr. W. B. Denton of Detroit, Michigan, 1895, a copy of same being in the Whitley Collection, and the records of the Honorable John Savage Denton, of Franklin, Tennessee, 1930, also in the Whitley Collection, Joseph Denton married Ann Hogg, daughter of Gideon Hogg, of North Carolina. Joseph Denton was a brother of Abraham Denton who migrated to Tennessee. In the above referred to collections of family records, Joseph Denton is referred to as "of Stockton Valley" Kentucky.

Joseph Denton was a private in Captain John Tipton's Company, in Virginia. John Tipton was a brother-in-law. The records show that Joseph Denton "deserted" and it is recorded that "The pay given John Tipton and his men was for a term of from 22 to 28 days, on October 25, 1775, and they were paid off at Romney or Winchester, Virginia."

This group of militia is further verified by "History of Shenandoah County, Virginia" by John W. Wayland, Ph. D., 1927, page 195 in the following words: "In a manuscript volume called the 'Romney and Winchester Pay Roll' page 29 and 30, is a list of the men in Capt. John Tipton's Company, who were in service early in the Revolution. John Tipton was a very prominent citizen of Shenandoah County; and it is probable that most of his men were from the same county. The author is indebted to the manuscript collection of Hon. Boutwell Dunlap of San Francisco for a copy of Captain John Tipton's Roll. See page 27.

Living in the same vicinity at the same time was the family of Peter Hog, Esq., who was allowed 3000 pounds of tobacco as salary for his services as deputy attorney. Just what relation Peter Hog or Hogg was to Gideon Hogg is not definitely known at this time. It was about 1776 that Peter Hog took the oath to the commonwealth, and also the oath of an attorney-at-law, so it is quite possible that this Peter Hog was a brother of Gideon Hogg, above mentioned.

Joseph Denton evidently went to North Carolina shortly after the time he deserted from the service, for he is not mentioned in Shenandoah County, again. Joseph Denton signed the agreement or Compact of Government entered into by the settlers on the Cumberland River 13 May 1780, his name does not appear on the tax on land list and the polls

taken in 1787. On an aboriginal map of Tennessee is the North Carolina Military Reservation 1783 and there is mentioned "Denton station" which was located near what is now Nashville, Tennessee. "Taking the station at the Bluff or Nashville, as our stand point, and casting our eyes around, we see where there are or have been stations and clearings, directly to the north of the first is Freeland's then Denton's."

There are no deeds in the Davidson County, Court House at Nashville, which mention Joseph Denton, so it seems rather certain that he did not own land at Denton's Station. It was not until July 10, 1788 that a Denton, Thomas by name, obtained a grant from North Carolina for 640 acres of land the same being recorded in Davidson County deeds "B" page 87. However two years earlier, Sept. 7, 1786, Thomas Denton with others (not named) sold to Mathias Tocom, 320 acres of land on Red River, then in what was called the Miro District, Cumberland Settlement, or Middle District, and this deed appears in Deeds "A" page 66 of Davidson County. Following this the same Thomas Denton sold the balance of the 640 acres, on March 10, 1789, which would be 320 acres on Mill Creek, Davidson County, to John Edmondson, and same recorded in Deeds "A" page 319.

No reference is made or indicated to Joseph Denton in any of these deeds. Therefore, it would appear that Joseph Denton while in Davidson County, did not own land, and that he certainly did not remain long after the settlement began to flourish. The first twenty-three years of marriage records in Davidson County do not show a Denton.

Denton's Station was on the North side of Cumberland River near Hickman's Station, almost opposite Robertson's Station which was on the South side of the River, or possibly about half way between Robertson's and Freeland's Stations, which was also on the South side of the River. This was 1780-81.

Clayton's "History of Davidson County", published 1886, page 29, in speaking of the attack on Freeland's Station "During the first year of occupation a number of settlements had been made or projected, extending along the Cumberland River for the distance of quite forty miles. Many of these stations were small in extent, poorly constructed and insufficiently manned, as the result soon proved." "The beginning of the year 1781 found the entire body of settlers confined to three forts, namely Robertson's on the Bluff, Eaton's two miles below on the North side of the River, and Freeland's about a mile to the northwest of the first."

Denton's Station must have been one of the smaller or less substantial stations for there is but little mention of it in the histories and old documents left today.

When the articles to establish a Government upon the Cumberland were drawn up, Denton's Station was not mentioned; however, the name of Joseph Denton does appear on the "Articles of Agreement, or Compact of Government" entered into by the settlers on the Cumberland River the first of May 1780.



June 3, 1783 when on motion made by Major John Reid relative to the assembling of the Southern tribes of Indians at French Lick, on Cumberland Lick, for holding a Treaty with the Commissioners appointed by the State of Virginia, etc, and that the Suffrages of the several stations be delivered to the clerk of Committee by Thursday evening, the 5th instant, at which time the suffrage of Freeland's Station, Heatonburg, and Nashborough were produced. There is no mention of Denton's Station or of Joseph Denton.

With the facts at hand and linked with the fact that the tax list of land 1787 was made for Davidson County, the name Denton not appearing, it would certainly indicate, if not definitely prove that Joseph Denton left the Cumberland about 1781 and certainly not later than 1782. He no doubt moved up the Cumberland River into the wilderness, and then or soon thereafter he removed up into the "Upper Cumberland" country, over the line into Kentucky.

One Joseph Denton received a grant in Adair County, Kentucky. The land being on Alligator Fork of Wolf River; 200 acres, recorded Book 8 page 363, dated Nov. 20, 1806. (Jillson's Ky, land Grants, page 299. Grants South of Green River.) (Also, Adair Co. Ky. records. Book C. page 489).

There is nothing in the above last mentioned which shows that it was Joseph Denton of our story, who obtained the grant.

In Adair County, Kentucky Deeds C page 489, Joseph Denton sold to Meredith Archer in 1815, 54 acres on Alligator Fork Creek.

The confusing part is that the fifty-four acres did not represent the entire tract of land granted in 1806, and I have been unable to find in Adair, and adjoining counties a deed or disposition of the balance of the 200 acres of land.

There are other deeds in Adair County, viz; Joseph A. and Ermine Denton sold to J. B. and Nancy V. Burton 120 acres on Green River, It was not recorded until 1905. (Deeds 18 page 380).

James and Nancy Denton bought from Sovern Popplewell 100 acres on Wolf Creek, in 1817. (Adair Deeds D p. 421). James and Joseph Denton bought from William Polston 40 acres on Wolf Creek about same time (D p. 150); Joseph and Betsy Denton bought from Andrew Ervin 200 acres in Caney Fork Creek in 1818 (Adair Deeds E p. 7); Joseph A. and Ermina Denton bought from E. B. Denton 120 acres on Green River, 1905, recorded Book 18 page 377.

Stockton Valley in Kentucky, was in Cumberland County, later partly in Wayne County. In 1792 this portion of Kentucky was in Green County and had that year been taken from Lincoln, then in 1798 Cumberland County was carved from Green, while in 1800 Wayne was cut from Pulaski and Cumberland, and in 1835-6 Clinton County was created from Wayne and Cumberland. In the division of the counties, Stockton Valley would be split up into several counties,

all of which have been checked for information regarding Joseph Denton. Stockton Valley was named after the Stockton family. Elder Robert Stockton soldier of the Revolution was taken prisoner at the Battle of Brandywine. John Stockton his brother, married Mary Morton of Virginia, where he lived until his death; after his death his wife came to Kentucky, purchased land on Cumberland River three miles from Burksville. Had a family of five sons and six daughters. ("Va. Baptist Min." By Taylor p. 206-208).

It is both interesting and informative to read in full the sketch of H. [Holland] Denton as found in the J. S. Denton records;

"The Great Grand father and Great Great Mother of the undersigned came from France [sic.] to the United States (as I learned from my father) many years before the commencement of the Revolutionary War and settled in North Carolina (if I ever learned their names I dont now remember them). As to the number of children they had, if I ever knew I dont now remember, only as to my Grandfather, Abraham Denton and Joseph Denton, and a sister of theirs that married a man by the name of Tipton.

"My Grandfather Abraham Denton was a full blooded Frenchman, married to Mourning Hogg, who was of Scotch descent. They had several children, to-wit: John Denton, Isaac Denton, Jeremiah Denton (my father), Abraham Denton, Samuel Denton and Elijah Denton, and several daughters, to-wit Sally (who married \_\_\_\_\_ Kendall, who was Alex. Kendalls, Grandfather), Nancy (who married Samuel A. Moore, Denton Moore's father), Agness (who married Garret Moore), Margaret (who married Jessee Moore), Martha (who married Clancey), who John Denton married I dont remember. Isaac Denton married Rebecca Etheridge [sic.], Jeremiah (my father) married Elizabeth Griggs, Abraham Denton married Polly Moore. I dont remember who Samuel Denton married, Elijah Denton married Sally Huff.

"As I learned from my father, my Grandfather Abraham Denton was a Captain in the Revolutionary War, that sometime after the War and in the early settlement of East Tennessee, my Grandfather and family moved from the Northern part of N. C. with others of the Denton family to E. Tenn, and some years thereafter my Grandfather and family moved to the Cumberland River Country and settled in the uplands of what is now in Clay County, near the Ky. line. My father and mother, Elizabeth Griggs, married about 1805 and soon thereafter removed to White County and settled on the place where they lived up to date of their deaths. My mother died 4 July 1828. My father died in 1847. I think in Sept. I dont remember the date of father or mothers birth. My recollection is my father was 68 years old, but dont remember mothers, but think she was several years younger than father. They had eleven children, 8 sons and 3 daughters, to-wit, Blanton, Hightower, Sterling, Overton, Susannah, Wayne, Holland, Hardin, Mourning, Edy and Abraham, - Wayne and Abraham both died



in infancy, - all the rest are dead except Mourning and Edy and Myself. I can go no further back on the maternal line than my Grandfather and Grandmother Griggs. I am not certain as to my Grandfather's given name, Grandmother's name was Mary. They had two sons, George and James Griggs, and 4 daughters, Peggy, Elizabeth, Susannah and Elinder. Geo and James lived in Alabama, also Peggy who married a man by the name of James Wilson. Susannah married John Nash, Elender was blind from childhood and never married. Elizabeth was my mother. I don't remember who James Griggs married, have not heard anything of him or family in the last 40 years or more, or as to Uncle John Nash's family, or Aunt Peggy's family. Uncle George Griggs was killed about 70 years or over ago by his brother-in-law James Wilson for which Wilson was hung (there were strike one bad man, a murderer and horse thief along the line, - he had stole some horses, Uncle George suspicioned him and watched and found out where he had them concealed, the owners came along in search of them and Uncle George directed them where to find them and exposed him for which Wilson killed him, for which he was hung, they lived in Alabama, I have had no information from any of the Griggs or Nashes for many years.

"My brother Blanton married in Alabama about 1835 or 1836 to Lucinda \_\_\_\_\_ and settled on Father's place and lived there for a considerable time and then moved to Texas, died there during the War, - had frequent correspondence with him up to time of his death. I received a letter from one of his sons soon after the commencement of the War, written from Arkansas, he was in Gen'l Thompson's Confed. Command, that is the last that I have heard from any of the family, have written and inquired and can get no trace of any of them. Bro. Hightower married in Madison County, Alabama, about 1837 or 1838, and settled on Father's place and remained there till his death. He married Nancy Witt, - they had several children, she died some 20 years ago, leaving several children, Mary Ann, Cynthia and Mary. Holland, Martin, John and \_\_\_\_\_.

"Sterling Denton married in White County to Juda Provence about the year 1849. His wife died about 1872, and he died about 1880, leaving several children, Erasmus \_\_\_\_\_ and some daughters.

"Overton Denton married in White County to the widow Martha Anderson about the year 1858, and about \_\_\_\_\_ removed to the State of Texas where he died about the year 188\_\_\_\_, leaving 2 children and his wife surviving him, they all still live in Texas.

"Susannah married about 1850 to Wm. Knowles, who died about 1863, leaving her as his widow and two children H. D. Knowles, Susannah died about 19 Feb. 1891.

"Hardin Denton was born about 1820 and married to Malinda Martin in the year 18\_\_\_\_, his wife died in 18\_\_\_\_, leaving 5 children, 3 daughters and 2 boys, being twins, one of which soon afterwards died \_\_\_\_\_ married Green Templeton, Elizabeth married Thos. Templeton, - Cynthia and James Buchanan went

to Texas where they still live. Mourning Denton still lives in White County and is single, having never married, is now about 72 years of age. Edy about the year of 18\_\_ married Jerry Webb, who about \_\_\_\_\_ died leaving her as his widow and 3 children, Brackenridge, Alvin C. and Cynthia.

"I, H. Denton, was born 6 Nov. 1818, was raised upon a farm, entered school at about 6 years of age and graduated in the Common Schools of that day (Minimum qualification of teacher was ability to teach spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic as far as the Rule of three) but luckily my last teacher could teach arithmetic clear through so I completed my course, at the age of 9 years was considered a marvellously precocious boy, and extraordinary fine pensman, had to write notes for my neighbor folks when they made a trade, they were all to be paid in trade at trade rates, - the standard value of trade was a second rate cow and calf valued at \$10 and many of the young fellows employed me a good deal of my time to write their love letters, which service I performed for them in a style very satisfactory to them. At the age of 12 I again entered school, went to Cousin John S. Denton, who was considered a very highly accomplished Teacher- could in addition to what other teachers had been able to teach could teach Geography and English Grammar - he had been to a teacher who proposed to learn his pupils all about the rudiments of the English language in 30 days. I graduated in that school, and at the age of 17 commenced teaching through the fall and winter seasons and worked on the farm during the crop times - taught in the Counties of White, DeKalb, and Jackson till about the year 1843, when I entered an academy school for a few months, engaged in the studies of Natural and Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Algebra and Latin - soon found out that the Prof. of that institution was not a Latin scholar or Mathematician, did not graduate there - in 1843 the first time that I was ever in a Court House while a Circuit Court was in session, I entered in the capacity of a Deputy Clerk, - in 1845 I was appointed Deputy Sheriff and served as such till in March 1846, when I was elected Sheriff of Jackson County, served 2 years and then made the race against T. H. Butler for the office of Circuit Clerk and was defeated, after which I commenced the study of law. In the meantime taught school and in the year 1850, commenced the practice of law, and on 2 Sept. 1851 married to Miss Cynthia B. De Journatt. On the 4th day of May, 1852, she died. I continued the practice of law in the several courts of Jackson and adjoining Counties till after the establishment and organization of Putnam County, when in 1855 I removed to Cookville and continued the practice of law, and in the spring of 1857, became candidate for State Senator in the District composed of the Counties of White, Jackson and Macon, was opposed by Dr. Flippins of Macon who was the candidate of the Know Nothing Party, - they then claimed a majority of about 500 in the District. I was elected by a small



majority, 68 votes. After serving in the Senate in 1857 and 1858, I in 1859 again ran for the State Senate and was opposed by Col. S. S. Stanton and was defeated, - continued the practice of law till Jan. 6, 1860, when I and Lucinda Whitson (widow of John Whitson, dec., and daughter of John and Margaret Barnes) were married. I continued in the practice of the law and farming until 5 June 1861. I entered as a Confederate soldier in the war of the Rebellion, as a 2d Lieut. in Capt. H. H. Dillard's Co. of the 16 Regt. of Tennessee Infantry Volunteers, commanded by Col. J. H. Savage, and served 12 months and upon the Re-organization, being over age, was discharged and returned home. The Courts being suspended, went to work on the farm until the close of the war and when the Courts resumed business I again resumed the practice of Law, and have followed the same ever since only for a time I was a Candidate for Chancellor and opposed by Messrs. W. G. Crowley, Col. S. H. Colms, Maj. A. A. Swope, Judge J. T. Quarles, and Judge W. W. Goodpasture, all Democrats except Judge Goodpasture, Rep. W. G. Crowley being a cripple Confederate Soldier was elected and in 1876 I was elected as joint representative from the Counties of Putnam and White to the Legislature of 1877. - have not aspired to any position since and am sure I will not hereafter. My wife died of Consumption on the 15 day of April 1884, after an illness of 14 months, leaving 4 children, the issue of our marriage, to-wit Althea, Alice, John S. and Cynthia, and Jerry Whitson, an only son of her former marriage, - since which time Alice died of Consumption after an illness of 8 months, on the 1st day of July 1885, Cynthia died of Consumption after a protracted illness of 12 months or over on Feb. 8, 1894. Althea was married to W. W. Vaden 22 Sept. 1892. John S. Denton, at the age of 21 years commenced the practice of law and in the year 189\_\_, he and W. S. McClain engaged in the publication of a newspaper (the Cooke Courier) and continued its publication until about May 1892, when he was appointed a Chief in the 6 Auditors office of the Treasury Department at Washington, where he is at present.

"My Grandfather Griggs was a revolutionary soldier in the Naval service, as I am informed, whether as a private or as an officer I am not informed, - he was of French descent. As to my Grandmother Griggs' maiden name, I am not informed. She was, as I learn, of Welch descent. I have no recollection of ever having seen my Grandfather Griggs, my Grandmother survived him. I remember seeing her, she lived to be 80 years of age or over.

"My father and mother were member of the Primitive Baptist Church. All of my father's family are dead except myself and two youngest sisters, - Mourning and Edy. All of Uncle Elijah Denton's children are dead except Polly Anderson. All of Uncle Abram Denton's children are dead. All of Uncle Samuel A. Moore's children are dead. All of Uncle Isaac Denton's children are dead. I dont know whether any of Uncle Sam Denton's family are still living or not, nor of Uncle Jessee Moore's family. I never knew

any of them. Neither do I know whether any of Uncle John Denton's family are still living or not. I suppose some of Uncle Garret Moore's family are still living. I am now the oldest one of the Denton family that I have knowledge of that are still living.

"I have no knowledge or any information of any of the Denton family ever being hung or sent to the Penitentiary. They have, so far as I know, or have learned, been considered reputable, though none of them has attained to much eminence financially, politically or otherwise.

"The Dentons I presume all originally came from France. I suppose that their name originally was Danton. I find that name in French History and no name of Denton. It, I suppose, as many other names have since they come to this country underwent that slight change.

"Many of the Denton family have emigrated from North Carolina to East Tennessee, Kentucky and to the Western States, Joseph Denton (Grandfather's Bro) settled in Ky. I am not informed as to how many children he had. I only know two of them, - Jerry (known as Little Jerry Denton, Father was known as Big Jerry) and Isaac. Little Jerry settled in White County about 1 mile from Father's in about the year 1805, and remained till his death, and was the father of Ozias Denton, a prominent old Baptist minister, and Isaac, [sic] who lived in Stockton's Valley, in Ky, was also a prominent old Baptist minister, and the father of Isaac Denton who died in Warren County some 3 or 4 years ago, and who was also a prominent Primitive Baptist minister.

"John Barnes, my wife's father, and Margaret Barnes, her mother, lived from the date of their marriage in Jackson County, (Now Putnam) until their death. John Barnes March 8, 1801, and died 1 day of Dec. 1894. Margaret Barnes was born 4 Oct. 1798, and died July 15, 1879, leaving surviving them 5 daughters, to-wit, Polly (wife of Austin Choates), Ann (wife of W. J. Mills), Lucinda Denton, Sally (wife of J. M. Whitson) and Martha J. Barnes. They only had one son, who died \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_. Two of their daughters, Alice and Rebecca, - Alice wife of James Pippin and Rebecca the wife of John H. Dowell, were dead. All these left surviving them several children, - Martha J. Barnes, since the death of her father and mother and about \_\_\_\_\_ also died, having never married."

There is no date to the above letter, but it must have been written some time near 1895, for another letter of importance in the genealogy of the family from H. Denton reads, in part, as follows:

"At Jerry's June 30, 1895. Dear Sir -. I am in good health—Jerry's folks are all well—Jerry has been sick for last several days—sort of bilious attack is up and about again—seems to be about well. I received your letter last night also Altheas she gives me a full history of her trip from Washington along the line to Niagara &



back to Washington—it is a very interesting history of the trip—she says she enjoyed it splendidly and I am sure she did.—she says that she is in splendid good health, has not had a touch of head ache nor tooth ache since her return and that all she meets remarks about her looking so well.

"I received yours also last night— I have nothing to write you as to family history— I wrote a few days ago to       Denton (at Denton Georgia— I had forgotten his given name but addressed it to his son (John D. Denton & father) explaining in my letter why I had so addressed it— requesting him to give me all the information that he could about his family history—specifying particulars—that is— given names, dates of births, deaths, residence & c. I also wrote to a Mr. Fulton— a lawyer of Denton in Denton County Texas to know if there was any person by the name of Denton living in his County—if so to give in their names & P. O. addresses — also to learn who the City & County was named for — and if he was a resident of that County at the date of the establishment of the County & City & c. and for any information he could give me upon that subject— I also wrote a letter to Perry County (to Linden County site) to the sheriff of that County for the names of any persons, if any, by the name of Denton — also their P. O. address— I shall expect in a few days to get a letter in answer to all of said letters— my grandfather Denton I think settled in Perry County— I am not certain as to how that was—it was in some County either in Middle or W. Tenn— formerly there were only two Divisions of Tennessee E & W Tenn) and the Cumberland Mountains was the line between them— so you see Sparta in 1826 designated as being in W. Tenn.

"I have heard my father speaking a great deal in time about his family relations— but that has been so long ago— that I dont now have much distinct recollection about what he said —I have often heard him speak about his uncle Jo. Denton - & I think that he was the father of Little Jerry Denton & Isaac Denton of Stockton Valley, Ky —He spoke of some of the Tipton's it seems to me that he spoke of a Jonas Tipton—I think that my Grand Mother Denton was a Tipton— & that Jo. Denton's wife was also a Tipton—I have heard my father speak of him and Little Jerry Denton being double Cousins— Their fathers were brothers and their mothers sisters— The Tipton family was from North Carolina I think— you will see in the early History of Tennessee in the conflict about establishing the Frankland State Government in which a man by the name of Tipton & Gen. John Sevier figured conspicuously for some time.—A. A. Reagin told me that he had received your letter and if I think from what he told me will perhaps be able to give some information about what you desire to hear from him— Col. Maxey of Texas married either a daughter or grand daughter of Isaac Denton of Stockton Valley, Ky, Isaac Denton had a son named Jo. Denton. Well I remember of Geo. Denton of Ky — but suppose that he

was a son of Isaac Denton's of Stockton Valley, but I gather from your letter that George & Isaac were brothers— Col. Reagan, A. A. Reagans father— married Isaac Dentons daughter— Little Jerry Denton had only three sons that I now remember of Ozias, John & William. John I think moved to Ky. Ozias to Ark—dont remember where. William went to — he (Little Jerry) had several girls— Icy, married Daniel McDaniel one Anne married Alex Gattings— and Golda married Samuel Couch. Cant now give you anything of the whereabouts of any of the family or descendants. \* \* \* Ozias was a distinguished industrious man— was in fair circumstances financially— he married a daughter of James Walling in White County—had a large family all girls but one, a son James Denton who if living is in Arkansas.\* \* \*

"I will try to get from my nephews, nieces, & c, dates & births of my Bros. I have Mournings & Edys births.

"I will as soon as I can procure as much information & c as I can that you may desire to get— there was a Samuel Denton he was the father or grandfather of Elijah W. Terry's wife. I will write to her or go to see her and learn from her if he has any knowledge of his family records —where it is—He was quite intelligent business man as I always understand—I never had any personal acquaintance with him—he seemed to be related to the Fisks and came from some of the Eastern States— and I think is probably a descendant of Rev. Richard Denton, and I presume probably had a Bro. Elijah— and perhaps they are the ones who made the transfers of lands you speak of— It has always been understood that he was a relative of ours about 1838 or 1839. When a Branch Bank of Tennessee— was established & Organized at Sparta— I remember that George G. Dibrell, myself & Samuel Denton were candidates for Clerk of the Bank— I had seen the Board of Directors— had left my application with some of the Board who were my friends— G. G. Dibrell was elected by the Board----- It was said I remember that Sam Denton would be a pretty prominent apponent on account of his five business qualifications & that he had had some connection with Banks heretofore and had strong certificates of his efficiency & c.— Hence I think if I can get at his family records may elicit from it— perhaps some valuable information— My Uncle Sam Denton & Uncle Jessee Moore both as I have always understood went to & settled in Perry County— I have no recollection of ever seeing any of either of their families—& have had but little account of there records or of them in anyway— If I can get at any of the family in Perry County, I will from them perhaps elicit some information.

"Well when I received answer to letters recently written perhaps get a clue to further inquiries and sources from which I may get at other facts as to family history— \* \* \*.

"Well— Mary Alice is a lovely little mischivous chap— she is a running around and noisy all the time— Althea thinks there is no chap like her.

"She looks after me pretty closely— often comes out



SECTION FROM EARLY MAP SHOWING WHERE MANY  
DENTONS SETTLED

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In the infold will be found a section of Rhea's Map of Tennessee, published in 1832, showing the area where Denrons settled in the late 1700s and the early 1800s. The map shows county boundaries of Tennessee as they were in 1832. Kentucky counties are not shown, but early settlements and towns of that area of Kentucky will be noted north of the Tennessee line. Comparison with a present-day map of the section will show Clinton County and Albany, Kentucky between Burkesville and the Tennessee line. A present day map will also show Clay, Macon and Pickett Counties in Tennessee bordering on Kentucky in what was Jackson and adjacent Tennessee counties. (See chapters on Joseph Denton and Rev. Isaac Denton Sr.)

White County, with Sparta as the county seat, and Warren County, with McMinnville as the county seat, will be found south of Jackson County, Tennessee.

Approximate scale of Map: 1 inch = 8 1/2 miles.

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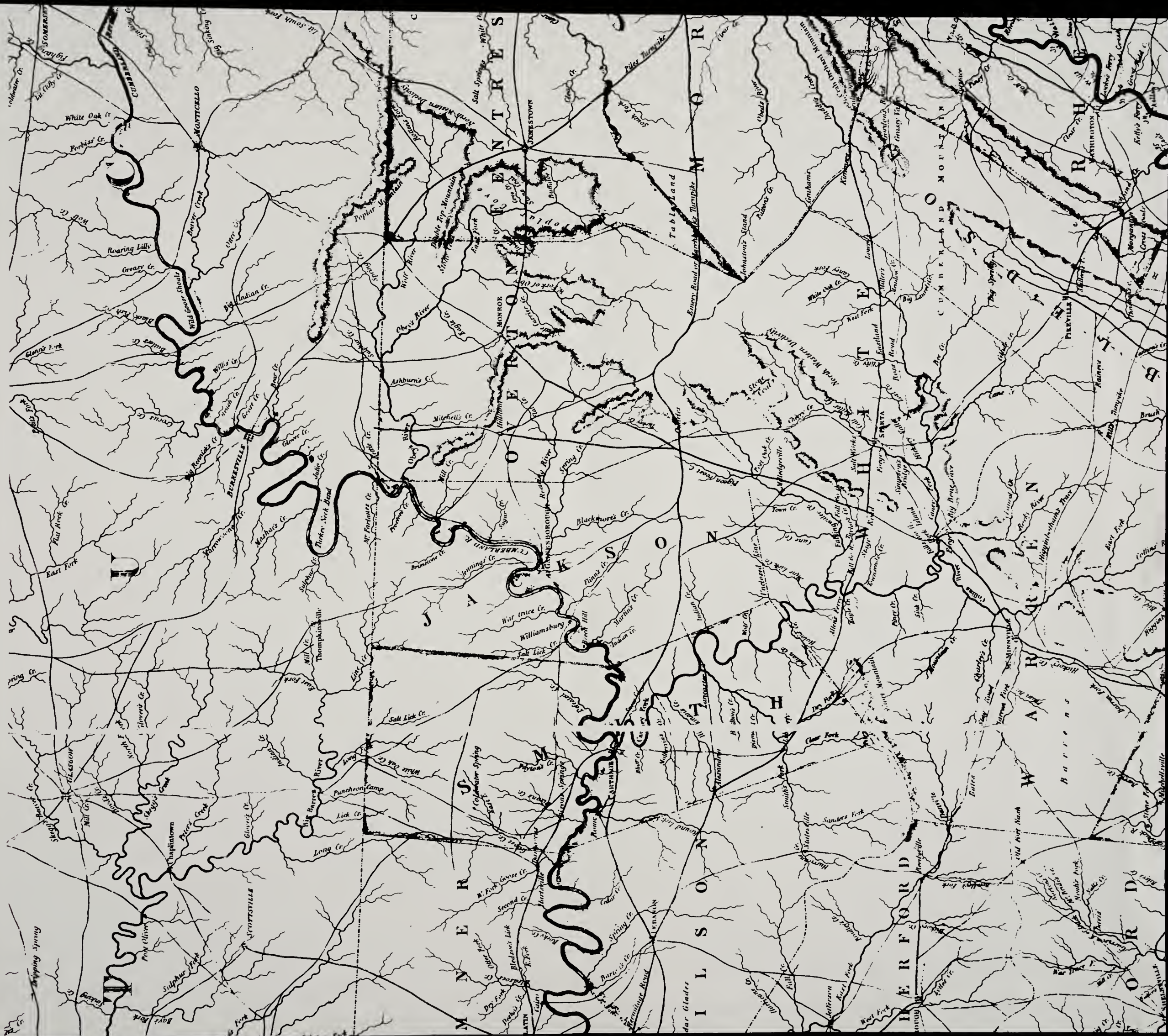
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at meals— leads me out and has my chair arranged, sees that I am seated all right & next attends to seating herself. She is slow about learning to talk— depends most by making signs— by which she makes herself understood. Her Aunt Althea brought some little cats (painted) climbing up on a kind of bush— that she is terribly fond of— and sent her a Doll that she is nearly crazy over— I must close up my letter will in my next give you all the information I can about our family record— Write my how you are getting along with your office business— Did you not have to make your annual Financial report ( that is the Department) 30 June 1895?

"I presume you have lost some time— by your several trips, sickness & c — And of course was out of a considerable amount of expenses & c., but the trip was a source of great pleasure— Althea seems to have enjoyed it greatly— You and her ought to each while it is fresh on your mind write out for future reference for yourselves and others after you at least a brief historical report or statement of the main incidents of your trip, scenery & c. —I shall in a Book make up a sketch from what I may gather from you & her about your trip— you being my only children now living and also shall make up a sort of detailed statement of the incidents of Alice & Cynthia's life— also of your Mother's and my own—while there may not be anything of very thrilling interest in it—now— it may be looked to by others after us with much interest— I of course feel proud of you & Althea— and remember with much pleasure your mother & sisters— and feel like their memory are worthy of being preserved— Let me hear from you as usual. ----- Yours Truly, H. Denton."

There are a number of other letters in the John S. Denton and Edythe Whitley collection, written by H. Denton, but since they do not refer to the family of Joseph Denton and Isaac Denton of Stockton Valley, Kentucky, they are not given herein.

Mr. W. B. Denton, 4211 Third Ave., Detroit, Michigan, October 10, 1927, wrote a letter to C. M. Denton, Butler, Missouri, in which he stated "Isaac Denton killed in Indiana by the Indians", etc. "The only early Isaac Denton I know of was the son of Joseph Denton and was born in 1768 and he could not be the Isaac that is on the Jury May term 1782 in Washington County, Tenn, for he would only be 14 years old."

From the above it is very clearly seen that Joseph Denton, the brother of Abraham Denton, who married Ann Hogg, moved about considerably from 1775 through the balance of his life, having been born in about 1725 and was living we know in 1780-81 and later. Thus, he was past fifty-five years of age, possibly a little older, when he left the Cumberland at Denton's Station, for Kentucky. It is believed that he did not own land after arriving in Stockton Valley in Kentucky, and possibly resided with his children. The Cumberland, Clinton, Wayne and some other adjoining



counties records are far from complete as courthouses burned and a large portion of them have been lost. A careful search does not uncover a will or an administration of estate of Joseph Denton in any of these counties, as well as those counties in Tennessee which it is known that Joseph Denton possibly lived in at one time or another. He therefore, evidently died without a record of estate, possibly not owning property requiring an administration. Neither is there a record of any estate of his wife Anne Hogg Denton to be found in the same places which have been searched. These facts therefore, force us to rely on the letters given herein as to the family of Joseph Denton and his wife Anne Hogg Denton.

The known children of Joseph Denton and wife Anne Hogg Denton:

1. Jeremiah Denton, called "Little Jerry": He settled in White County, Tennessee, about one mile from "Big Jerry" Denton. The year of this settlement being about 1806. There he remained until his death.

2. Isaac Denton, born in North Carolina in September 1768, died about January 26, 1858 in Jackson (now Clay) County, Tennessee, married Rebecca Etheridge.

3. If other children, no definite record.

The Dentons, the Plumlees, the Stones and the Etheridges, all eventually settled in the same neighborhood, near the Kentucky line in Civil District No. 15 of Jackson (now Clay) County, Tennessee.

There lived Noah Denton in 1850 as shown by the Census of that year taken October 26, 1850, by A. H. Morgan, Assistant Marshall. No. 862-862 which gave him as 38 years of age, farming, real estate valued at \$500, born in Tennessee, and in his household Sarah age 32, born Kentucky; Elias age 16, John age 14, James age 11 and Sarah M. age 1 all born in Tennessee.

Enumeration of the same No. 864 Stephen Plumlee age 41 with a family including Jane age 41, Nancy age 17, Benjamin age 14, Denton age 10, Thompson age 8, Alvira C. age 6, and John age 2, all born in Tennessee.

No. 871 shows John Plumlee and family. He was 53 years of age born in Tennessee, with Elizabeth age 52, James age 21, Elizabeth age 23, Cynthia age 18, Samuel age 16, Isaac age 14 and Holland age 12 all born in Tennessee.

No. 836 Clinton Plumlee age 44 born Tenn, with a family consisting of Polly age 40, Jane age 16, Wilson age 14, John age 11, Polly A. age 9, Katharine age 7, William age 5 and Carroll age 1, all born in Tennessee.

No. 837, Archibald Plumlee age 21, with family, Matilda age 20, Idittsin (?) age 1/12, and Harden Woods age 16 all born in Tenn. The last named was probably living with the family and working.

No. 838 Pharris Plumlee age 19 with Polly age 16, born in Tenn. No. 839 Lawson Plumlee age 20, with a family consisting of Martha age 19, born Tenn. And in same household lived George Cherry age 17 and Oliver Butlor (?) age 22 also born in Tenn.



No. 834 Samuel N. Plumlee age 26, born Tenn, with property valued at \$250.00, and in his household Elizabeth age 29, Albert E. age 2 and Louisa age 3 all born in Tenn.

No. 840 William Plumlee age 58 born North Carolina. His family consisted of Elizabeth age 22 born Ky; Leroy S. age 14, William age 10, and Martha. Also in the same household lived Isaac Miller age 35, Rutha Cherry age 23, and a Thomas J. age 4/12, all born Tenn.

Hiram (?) Etheridge No. 832, was in the same neighborhood. He was age 42 born Kentucky; His household consisted of Lois age 39, James T. age 16, William W. age 14, Benjamin L. age 12, Telitha D. age 10 and Nancy A. D. age 2.

REV. ISAAC DENTON SR.

(Son of Joseph, son of Abraham, Jr., son of Abraham Sr., son of Samuel, son of Rev. Richard Denton).

Born Caswell County, North Carolina Sept. 1768,  
died about 1858, Jackson County, Tennessee.

Married Rebecca Ethridge, born 1765-1770.

According to the "Baptist Encyclopedia" published by Louis H. Everets, Philadelphia, 1883: "Rev. Isaac Denton was a distinguished pioneer preacher of Southeastern Kentucky and was born in Caswell County, North Carolina in September 1768". In this work Everets further states: "He was ordained a Baptist minister, and preached several years in East Tennessee. He removed to [what is now] Clinton County, Kentucky in 1798 and gathered Otter Creek, Beaver Creek, Clear Creek, and others of the first churches in this region of the state. After a long and useful ministry he died January 26, 1848".

The year of the death of Rev. Isaac Denton as given in the above must be an error for he was living as late as 1850 which will be shown in the fragments of information given in this sketch.

Before continuing let's get a brief picture of the country in which Rev. Isaac Denton Sr., lived so that we can follow more readily the results of our research.

Clinton County, Kentucky was created in 1835-6 from Wayne and Cumberland Counties. Albany is the County seat of Clinton County. Cumberland County, was organized 1798 from Greene with Burkesville as the County seat. Greene County, was created in 1792 from Lincoln and Nelson, and Greensburg was made the seat of government. Lincoln County, dates back to 1780 when it was formed from Kentucky County, Virginia, with Stanford as the seat of the county government. Nelson County was created 1784 from Jefferson with Bardstown the County seat, while Jefferson County was established in 1780 from Old Kentucky County and Louisville was named as the County seat. Wayne County was not existing until 1800 and was taken from Pulaski and Cumberland, with Monticello as the seat of government in Wayne County. It was in 1798 that Pulaski County was organized from Lincoln and Greene, Somerset being the place of government of Pulaski County.

In 1770 the "Long Hunters", 40 in number, played a very important part in the history of Cumberland and adjoining counties which bordered on the Tennessee line. Uriah Stone was probably the most historic member of the "Long Hunters" so far as this section is concerned. Not all the "Long Hunters" went to Cumberland County; they scattered all the way from the settlement at Nashborough (Nashville) to the source of the Cumberland River in Kentucky.



The total population of Cumberland County in 1800 was 3,284. This included parts of Clinton, Wayne, Russell, Monroe and Metcalfe Counties.

The fire which destroyed the Cumberland County Court House December 30, 1933 caused the loss of much history which shall never be recovered.

The manuscript of Mr. John S. Denton and the records of Mrs. Edythe Whitley, both show that Rev. Isaac Denton Sr., who lived in Stockton Valley, in Kentucky, was a prominent Baptist Minister and the father of Rev. Isaac Denton Jr., who died in 1889 in Warren County, Tennessee. In the same collection of Denton records are to be found letters from Holland Denton, 1895; R. O. Denton of Gainesville, Texas, April 16, 1888 and November 1, 1886; also O. D. Denton of Gath, Tenn. May 23, 1895, all referring to Isaac Denton.

As late as 1857 there were only five post offices in Clinton County, viz: Albany, Alpha, Elliott's X Roads, Green Grove, and Seventy-Six.

In Monroe County, there were seven post offices in 1857, viz: Centre Point, Fountain Run, Hilton, Mud Lick, Rock Bridge, Sulphur Lick, and Tompkinsville.

The "History of Cumberland County, Kentucky" by J. W. Wells, published 1947, page 15, states, Isaac Denton had a land grant of 200 acres on the North side of Wolf River, dated August 30, 1798.

In another place in the same publication, we find the names of persons over 21, First Tax list 1 May 1799, Cumberland County, Signed by John Lasley tax Commissioner for the District, (much of this district was taken to form Clinton and Wayne Counties); Jeremiah Denton, 200 acres on Spring Creek; Isaac Denton, 200 acres on Spring Creek; Samuel Eldridge also had land in that section.

When the Courthouse was burned in Cumberland County, it destroyed the marriage records from 1799 to 1882, except those which Mrs. Nora C. McGee made a copy of covering the period from 1799 to 1817. These are now the only existing records for the period prior to the fire. Many of the early marriages were performed by John Mulkey, William Ray, David Haggard, Elliott Jones and Isaac Denton. Mulkey and Denton were both Baptist, Haggard was of the Christian Church.

Page 53, of Well's history, states that Isaac Denton was granted a license to celebrate the rites of matrimony after producing credentials of his being in communion with the Baptist Church; Bond by William Wood and Hugh Campbell. The oldest and most noted Baptist Church in Cumberland County was Casey's Fork, of Marrowbone, built in 1802. Another of the early Baptist churches was Salem Church which dates back to July 9, 1808 when thirteen charter members given up by Casey's Fork Church, "this county", to consitute a Baptist Church of Christ at Salem meeting house, on Rennick Creek, met and drew up articles of fellowship. Isaac Denton and Lewis Ellison were the petitioners and, the first preachers. Brother Ellison served as



moderator till 1840. Brother Denton served a number of years.

Among the ministers who carried on the work at Salem Meeting House, Isaac Denton in 1808 is listed as the first with Lewis Ellison 1808-1840 second.

Well's, on page 75, says, In 1834 when the dispute between Wm. Gray and Geo. King over a negro man took place, Casey's Fork failed to settle the dispute, and the church called on the sister church to help. Mill Creek sent John Whitson, Ben Rush, Isaac Denton, etc. Glover's Creek sent John Button and others.

Among the early marriages in Cumberland County, which have been preserved, is found Lewis Wright, and Mahala Denton, March 10, 1809. Just what relation Mahala was to the rest of the family is not certain.

Most of the Dentons had left Cumberland and Clinton Counties, by 1840, which is evidenced by the following on page 324-1/2 of the Clinton County, census of that year, showing James Eldridge, with males 1(30-40); females 1(0-5) 2(5-10) 1(15-20) and 1(30-40). Page 328-1/2 shows J. C. Denton with males 1(0-5) 1(15-20) and 1(20-30); females 1(0-5) and 1(20-30). Page 329-1/2 shows Geo. N. Denton with males 1(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(10-15) 1(15-20) 1(20-30) and 1(30-40); females 1(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(20-30) and 1(30-40).

Then on page 336-1/2, I find Isaac Denton with males 1(70-80) and females 1(60-70) no others in the household.

The above notations of Dentons in Clinton County, represent all persons of the name Denton and Eldridge or Etheridge found in 1840 in the census.

Part of Stockton Valley is in Adair County, Kentucky, and there are found but few Dentons there, the early ones have been mentioned in our chapter on Joseph Denton.

The Isaac Denton in the 1840 census of Clinton County, was evidently a cousin or relative of Isaac Denton of our story, for sometime after 1820 and before 1830 Isaac Denton with his wife Rebecca, and family removed from Stockton Valley a short distance southward near the Kentucky-Tennessee line, taking up residence there. He probably made this move to be near his relatives, the Plumlees and Moores who had already settled there.

The 1820 census of Jackson County, Tennessee shows that William, Archibald and two John Plumleys had established homes there. Jackson County at that time bordered on Kentucky, as Clay, Macon and Pickett Counties in Tennessee had not been created then. The settlement of these people was in the vicinity of Moss, Tennessee--- between there and Tomkinsville, Monroe County, Kentucky, mostly on the Kentucky-Tennessee State line.

William Plumley (Plumlee) in 1820 had a family of males 1(26-45); females 3(0-10) 1(18-26). Archibald Plumley at the same time had in his household, males 1(0-10) 1(18-26) females 2(0-10) 1(16-26). John Plumley had males 1(18-26) females 1(16-26); and, another John Plumley's family consisted of males 1(0-10) 3(10-16) 1(16-18) 2(18-26) 1(Over 45); and females 1(0-10).



Unfortunately, the early records of Jackson County, Tennessee, have been destroyed. Jackson County was erected in 1801 from a part of Smith County, which had been created in 1799 from Sumner (Sumner County being one of the first three counties established in Middle Tennessee). Jackson County was named in honor of Andrew Jackson, who, at that time, was a judge of the Superior Court of Law and Equity.

Early settlers came into this section soon after the establishment of Nashborough (Nashville); and as the Indians were a menace a fort, named Fort Blount after Governor William Blount, was erected in this county on the Cumberland River, as a protection for the settlers and travelers. Gainesboro, the county seat of Jackson County, named for General Edmund Pendleton Gaines, was established in 1817 and incorporated in 1820.

On December 7, 1870 part of Jackson County and part of Overton County, were created into a new county which was named in honor of Henry Clay. Celina was selected for the county seat over Butler's Landing and Bennett's Ferry. That portion of Jackson County in which Isaac Denton lived was then placed in Clay County.

The census is taken each ten years. By 1830 Isaac Denton had located in the same general neighborhood as had the Plumley (Plumlee), Ethridge, Moore and other associated families, in Jackson County, Tennessee.

The following enumerations are notated from the 1830 census of Jackson County, viz: John Denton with males 1(0-5) 1(20-30), females 1(0-5) 1(20-30); Joshua Denton with males 1(5-10) 1(10-15) 1(30-40), females 2(0-5) 1(10-15) 2(15-20) 1(30-40); Isaac Denton with males 1(5-10) 1(20-30) 1(50-60), females 2(15-20) 2(20-30) 1(30-40) 1(50-60); Hiram Denton with males 1(20-30), females 1(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(30-40); Abraham Denton with males 2(15-20) 1(50-60), females 2(0-5) 2(5-10) 1(40-50).

Acorn (Aaron) Ethridge with males 1(0-5) 1(10-15) 1(40-50), females 2(5-10) 3(10-15) 1(40-50). Garrett Moore with males 1(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(10-15) 1(15-20) 1(20-30) 1(40-50), females 1(0-5) 2(5-10) 3(15-20) 1(40-50); Denton Moore with males 2(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(10-15) 1(20-30), females 1(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(20-30); William P. Moore with males 1(20-30), females 2(0-5) 1(20-30); John Moore with family of males 1(5-10) 1(10-15) 1(30-40), females 1(10-15) 1(30-40); Michael Moore's family had male 1(20-30), female 1(20-30); and Richard Moore with family of males 4(0-5) 2(5-10) 1(10-15) 1(15-20) 1(40-50), females 2(0-5) 1(5-10) 2(10-15) 1(20-30) 1(40-50).

The same year, 1830 shows John Plumley, males 1(0-5) 1(30-40), females 1(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(20-30); Abraham Plumley, males 2(0-5) 1(20-30), females 1(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(20-30); William Plumley, males 2(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(30-40) 1(90-100), females 1(5-10) 2(10-15) 1(15-20) 1(30-40); Archibald Plumley, males 1(5-10) 1(30-40), females 1(0-5) 2(5-10) 1(10-15) 1(20-30); and Denton Plumley, males 2(0-5) 1(5-10) 1(20-30), females 2(0-5) 1(20-30).

The next mention found of Isaac Denton appears in the 1840 census of Jackson County, Tennessee, District No. 7, with males 1(60-70) and one female age 1(60-70).

The same census of 1840 for Jackson County, also shows the following:

Samuel E. Stone with a family; George B. Moore, and Jones Moore in District No. 1. while in District No. 4, lived Francis A. Stone. In District No. 5. Garrett Moore with family living next door to Menetree Whitson and family. Nearby lived John Plumlee, Clinton Plumlee, James Moss (the town of Moss being named for this family), Joseph Moore, next door to Joseph Denton, and next to him was John Whitson, Jonathan Moore also lived in this district.

James Stone lived in District No. 6, while in District No. 7, near Isaac Denton lived William Plumlee, Abram Denton, Erasmus Denton, Archibald Plumlee, Stephen Plumlee, Kindle Plumlee, John Moore and Denton Plumlee. Next door to Isaac Denton lived Noah Denton with a family of males 2(0-5) 1(20-30), females 1(20-30).

In the legislative Petitions on file in the Tennessee State Archives, I find one dated 1837, December 2, regarding the Justices of the Peace for Jackson County, who petitioned the Legislature asking "four County Courts in a year instead of twelve". Among those Justices of the Peace who signed appears the names of Denton Plumlee and Denton Moore.

Isaac Denton seems to have spent the remainder of his life at this Jackson County, Tennessee, location for in the census of 1850 which is the first census enumeration that gives the names of all members of the family, with their approximate ages, I find in District No. 17, taken the 26th day of October, A. H. Morgan, assistant Marshall, #863 Isaac Denton age 76 a farmer, born North Carolina, and in his household Rebecca age 72 born in Tennessee.

This leaves no doubt that Isaac Denton of Jackson County, Tennessee, whose wife was Rebecca (Etheridge) was living at that date and is identical with the subject of our story. It also proves that he is the same Isaac Denton found in Jackson County, in the 1830 and 1840 census, with other members of his family, consisting of males and females, all of whom no doubt were married and established in their own homes by 1850. This also proves the date of death given by Everets, in "Baptist Encyclopedia" as being incorrect.

I think it of interest to also list the enumerations found in Jackson County, Tennessee, 1850 census of the Dentons, Stones, Moores, Etheridges and others associated or related families. They are as follows:

District No. 1., No. 60- Denton Moore age 62, born Tennessee, with a family of Tabitha age 37 (?) born Tenn. Handy Purcell age 75, born N. C.; Elizabeth (Percell) age 72 born ?

District No. 1, No. 87, Erasmus Denton age 45 born Tennessee, with him Susanna age 40 born Ky; Mary age 16; John H. age 14; Abram G. age 12; William H. age 8;



Sally, age 4; and Susanna S. age 1; all born in Tennessee.

District No. 1, No. 102, Samuel E. Stone age 42, merchant, born Virginia, with family consisting of Nancy P. age 25; Willis S. age 14; William P. age 7; Mary age 5; all born in Tennessee. In this same household Joel W. Settle age 23 born Ky.; Joel Stone age 1, born Tenn.; Yecumseh Settle age 19 (male) born Tenn.

District No. 1, No. 118, the household of Joseph Eaton, lived Hollen Denton age 25 born Tennessee. The record is not clear but also appears Absolam W. Denton (?) age 21, and David L. Denton (?) age 15, born in Tenn.

In District No. 16, enumerated on the 22nd of September, 1850, No. 426, William Etheridge age 30, and in his family Sarah age 30; Martha F. age 2; and Leonidas E. age 7/12 of a year; all born in Tennessee.

Civil District No. 7, No. 656, shows Denton Plumlee age 47, with a family of Nancy age 44; George age 21; John age 17; Nancy age 13; Francis age 11 (male); Elizabeth age 9; Andrew age 6; and Merelda age 3; all born in Tenn.

In the same district No. 657, Jane A. Plumlee age 19 in the home of Olaver P. Hudson. At No. 646 was William Plumlee age 26 with Levona age 25, both born in Tennessee.

In Civil District No. 6, No. 738 James A. Stone, age 24, with family of Sarah age 20; Margaret R. age 1; Sebereas L. age 1/12; James B. age 14; Joseph K. age 11; all born in Tennessee.

Next to him at No. 739 was George W. Stone age 26 born Tenn. In his family Katharine age 25 born N. C.; James H. age 6, and Nancy age 4, both born in Tenn.

Civil District No. 17, No. 826, John Moss age 43 born in Kentucky with a family. No. 854 Scott More age 29 born Ky, with Evelina age 26, and Jane age 2, both born in Tenn.

No. 855 Jefferson More age 31, with Katharine age 27, and Mary Cornwell age 16, all born in Tennessee.

In this same District No. 17, No. 879 was Joshua Denton age 57 born N. C. and in his household, Jane age 53 born Ky; William age 12, born Tenn.

In this same district lived Isaac Whitson, William Whitson and M. R. Whitson with their families.

No. 900 Elizabeth Denton age 39, born North Carolina. With her I find Milberry age 23; Sarah age 11; Berry age 18; Mariam age 16; and McDonald age 16; born Tennessee.

No. 906 William Plumlee age 25, born Tenn, lived alone.

No. 916, Alped G. More age 29, with Samuel A. age 32; Sally age 30; Rockanna age 8 (female); James age 6; Deadmond age 4; Polly age 2; Detentoin age 1/12; all born Tennessee.

Civil District No. 5, No. 940 Little B. More age 40, with him Nancy age 37, and John W. age 10.

In this same District lived Joseph Moss and family next to #1028 Archibald Plumlee age 55 born N. C.; Rutha age 49; Job age 23; Mary age 18; Cyarnetta age 16; Lyedia J. age 14; Stephen age 12; George W. age 10, and Andrew J. age 7; all born in Tennessee.

No. 1029 shows Clinton Plumlee age 22, or 52, in his household lived Nancy age 45; Sarah J. age 3; and Carazina age 1; all born in Tennessee.

No. 1045, Abrem Denton age 71 born Va., with Polly age 66 born N. C.; Alfred age 40; Margaret age 30; and Mary age 27, all born in Tenn.

Civil District No. 12, taken on August 29th, 1850, No. 40 Mary Moor age 48 born S. C.; Lurana age 20; Russell age 22; Nancy age 18; Michael age 17; Wade W. age 15; Wilburn age 12; and Litetha F. age 10; all born Tenn.

Moss was not a Post-office when Isaac Denton was living. There were twenty-three post-offices in Jackson County, Tennessee in 1857, viz: Bennett's Ferry with Wilson T. McColgan as postmaster; Buck Point, with Edward M. Casen, postmaster; Butler's Landing, with John R. Hampton, postmaster; Byrne, with Brice Byrne, postmaster; Celina, with Landon W. Oglesby, postmaster; Clementville, with William C. Brockett, postmaster; Double Springs, with Robert L. Lindsay, postmaster; Equality, with Elijah H. Matheny, postmaster; Flynn's Lick, with Hugh H. McClendon, postmaster; Frank's Branch, with Benj. A. Smith, postmaster; Gainesboro, with R. C. Kirkpatrick, postmaster; Granville, with White Myers, postmaster; Hamilton Landing, with Oliver P. Hamilton, postmaster; Highland, with G. B. Monterville Stubblefield, postmaster; Lode, with Richard B. Gass, postmaster; Mayfield, with William Craig, postmaster; Meigsville, with Amos Kirkpatrick, postmaster; New Columbus, with John V. Minor, postmaster; North Springs, with Thomas L. Draper, postmaster; Pekin, with Charles F. Burton, postmaster; Rocky Mount, with Littleton C. Hall, postmaster; White Plains, with Stephen D. Burton, postmaster; and, Whitleyville, with Wm. C. Purcell, postmaster.

These fragments of records along with family tradition give us the only word picture of Isaac Denton and wife Rebecca (Etheridge) that it seems possible to document, since there are no records left from the devastating fires which have destroyed so much history in the sections in which our subject lived from time to time.

George N. Denton, the son of Rev. Isaac Denton, Sr., and wife Rebecca Ethridge, is known to have been born about 1809 in Clinton County, Kentucky, and married Patsy Robinson, who was born 1808 and died September 18, 1867. Patsy was the sister of Isaac Robinson and was born at Robinson Cross Roads, Tennessee. George N. Denton and family moved to Texas sometime after 1850. Among their children were; Reagan Denton, born Feb. 28, 1848, was a merchant at Honey Grove, Texas; Robert O. Denton, Gainesville, Texas; Marilda Cassa Denton, who married S. B. Maxey, onetime senator from Texas; Robinson Denton, who once lived in Lamar County, Texas; John and James Denton, killed in the Confederate Army during the Civil War; and a daughter who married W. E. Smith and lived in Texas. There were other children, probably ten in all.

The 1850 census of Clinton County, Kentucky, Dist. 2, page 368, Visit 21-21 shows the following: George N. Denton



age 41, born Kentucky, farmer, property value \$1600.00, Martha, age 42 born Tennessee (no doubt his wife Patsy), Isaac R., age 20, born Kentucky; Corian M., age 17; Jehu I., age 12; James A., age 9; Lucilla, age 7; G. A., age 4; Robert O., age 2. All born in Kentucky. In the same house lived Jane Bells, age 39 and Henry J. Bells, age 6, born in Alabama.

At the same time and in the same district, page 420, Visit 373-373; Joseph C. Denton, age 39 (or 37) born Kentucky, farmer, with property valued at \$1100.00. In the same household were Mary (likely his wife), and children Elizabeth 14, William 11, Samuel L. 8, and Matilda N. 1, all born in Kentucky. (The 1860 census of Clinton County, Visit 955, page 131: Joseph Denton, Minister, born Tenn., Mary 46, William L., 21, Mary 10, and John 15, all born Tenn. This seems to be the same family).

These are the only Dentons found in the 1850 census of Clinton County, Kentucky.

I know but very little more of Joseph C. Denton, mentioned above, except very brief notes regarding his family found in the John S. Denton and Whitley collection, in old letters.

Of the other children of Rev. Isaac Denton, Sr., was Rev. Isaac Denton, Jr., who was born December 23, 1806, presumably in Stockton's Valley, Kentucky. He migrated to White County, Tennessee, and was an Old Baptist Minister in White and Warren Counties. The next chapter of this book will be devoted exclusively to him and his large family.

According to John S. Denton, Tabitha, daughter of Rev. Isaac Denton, Sr., married William Proctor Welch. J. S. D. also lists Elijah, Jeremiah and Noah as children of Rev. Isaac Denton, Sr., and his wife Rebecca Ethridge.

The Maxey family into which this Denton family intermarried, according to Mr. Wells in "History of Cumberland County, Kentucky", pages 400-401, were very early in that section. William Maxey came to the county with William Radford. He settled on Skaggs Creek. They came through Lincoln County. There were five brothers in this family: Ephraim, Radford, Rice, William and Caleb. They went to the lower end of Cumberland County and then Caleb came to Brush Creek in 1804 where he had a grant of 150 acres in 1805. The Maxeys reared families. Radford and Rice were public officials of the county. Rice was an attorney at Burkesville and after Clinton was cut off in 1836, he moved to that county and was elected sheriff 1840-41 and clerk during the rest of the 1840's. Caleb married Sally Lewis and reared six children: Charles, Betty who married a Young, Anna married a Radford, Tabitha married a Pendleton, Mary married Amacks, Randolph, and Sally who married a Gilbert. Samuel Bell Maxey, who married George N. Denton's daughter, Marilda Cassa, went from this county to Texas where he was elected U. S. Senator for the Lone Star State.

The Reno, or Reneau, family was in Cumberland County

early. They were prominent Baptists, and the name Denton is to be found in this family.

The available census records of 1850 and earlier show no Dentons in Cumberland, Monroe and some of the adjoining counties other than given herein, regarding the children of Joseph or Rev. Isaac Denton. (The 1830 census of Cumberland County, on page 38, lists Isaac and son George. They were living in that part of Cumberland which later became Clinton. This census showed males: 1 age 15 to 20, 1 age 30-40 and 1 age 60-70 and females: 1 age 15-20 and 1 age 50-60 in the family of Isaac. In the family of George there was 1 male 20-30 and 1 female 20-30).

The name Isaac Denton seems to run in almost every line of the Dentons of this section.

There were Ethridges in Sumner County, Tennessee, very early in its settlement. They disappear from the records of this county, evidently because they were in that section first cut off in Smith County in 1799 and later Jackson County. There are no wills in Sumner for members of the Ethridge family, nor do I find the name spelled Eskridge or Eldridge as some have thought was possible. One Stephen Ethridge married Betsy Itsom (Epsom or Simpson) in Sumner County on September 7, 1819 and Gerrard Ethridge married Polly Newman on December 25, 1808.

It is very difficult to obtain records of that section of country which was once a part of Sumner and later Jackson. Two factors are involved here, first the Jackson County, records are almost entirely gone for the first fifty years of that county's growth; secondly, those Kentucky counties which join Tennessee have also lost almost all of their early records. There is evidence that the Ethridge family lived in Jackson County, possibly on or near the Kentucky line, in the same general neighborhood as did the Dentons and related families. Although a careful search has been made, only fragments of information have been uncovered.

The Dentons were people who pushed forward into new country as the wilderness was cleared for settlement. We find that other members of the Denton clan followed into these same sections of Tennessee and Kentucky.



REV. ISAAC DENTON JR.

(Son of Rev. Isaac, Sr., son of Joseph, son of Abraham, Jr., son of Abraham, Sr., son of Samuel, son of Rev. Richard Denton.)

Born Clinton County, Kentucky, Dec. 23, 1806; died Warren County, Tennessee, April 7, 1889.

Married: 1st, Rutha Walling, b. August 3, 1809; 2nd, Mary Grayer, or Greer, b. Nov. 13, 1810; 3rd. Didama Badger.

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Very little is known of the early life of Rev. Isaac Denton Jr. At just what time he came from Stockton's Valley, in Kentucky to White County, Tennessee is not known, but he married a White County girl in 1825, and it is presumed that he came to the county a few months, or years, earlier to live with, or visit, his uncle Jeremiah "Little Jerry" Denton.

It is fortunate that Isaac Denton Jr. left a bible record containing the names and birth dates of all of his children. Entries in the bible give only the first names of his first and second wives, together with the dates they were born, married and died. This record, with published works, church minutes, census reports and the marriage records of Warren and White Counties give a fairly complete picture of him and family in Tennessee.

The record, however, is not complete because of the fact that he served many congregations in his work as a minister, and it is believed that he was not living in White County part of the time after leaving Stockton's Valley, and before coming to Warren County. There is a tradition that he lived for a few years in Sequatchie Valley, in Tennessee, where he preached during that time.

In his "History of White County, Tennessee" Rev. Monroe Seals lists Isaac and Ozias Denton among the earliest ministers in the county, and calls them "Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit" Baptists. He notes that they were leaders in the movement in the mountain sections of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky.

During the early 1800s there occurred among the religious denominations "The Great Revival", or a separation from established denominations groups who were bent on reviving or re-establishing The Church. This movement was prompted by the preaching of Campbell and other early ministers. The Primitive Baptist Church was one of those separating from the established Baptist Church at this time. This group has been called by many names: "Primitive Baptists", "Hardshell Baptists", "Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Baptists", "Old Baptists", "Old Baptist Church of Christ", etc. Rev. Isaac Denton Jr. was one of this group.

We quote from Hale's "History of DeKalb County, Tennessee": "The Primitive, or Hardshell Baptists have a small membership in this [DeKalb] county. Of the two noted churches, Bildad and New Bildad, the latter the most noted. Among the well-known Primitive Baptist ministers, these are recalled: Revs. Isaac Denton, Terry Trapp, James Snow, L. Pope Potter and Mr. Byars."

An amusing incident recorded by Seals in his White County history is worth repeating here: "Isaac Woodward, who has been heard by some now living, was the greatest opponent Isaac Denton ever had. Woodward was a Methodist minister. He never attacked Denton or anyone else with logic. This would have been folly, but he attacked him with ridicule, sarcasm, epithet, and other species of wit. Riding along the road one day he met Denton. An argument ensued. Woodward must have been worsted, because he invited Denton down off his horse to settle the argument with fists." Later in his pulpit Woodward devoted about 30 minutes of his sermon to a tirade on "Ike Denton" and the Baptist Church.

Rev. Isaac Denton Jr. is mentioned in the minutes of the Caney Fork Church in Warren County on "The third Saturday in June 1851" as moderator. It is quite possible that he had preached at Caney Fork before this date, for he and his cousin, Rev. Ozias Denton, had many namesakes in the county at that time according to the 1850 census of Warren County. It was the custom in those days for members of the church to name their sons after their minister, and the Christian names Ozias Denton, Isaac Denton and James Denton prevail in many families of the county to this day.

The Caney Fork church mentioned above was established September 7, 1816 when, according to the minutes of the first meeting: "We the petitioners at Caney Fork meeting house met at the time appointed and agreeable to our petition the helpers from Concord and Bildad attended with us and after examination found us so far qualified that they set us apart a church a house for God also we presented Brother William Womack as our choice for a Deacon and after examination found him so far qualified that they set him apart a Deacon." The entry was signed, "Thos Burgess, Thos Clark, Chesley Webb."

The Caney Fork church was situated about 11 miles North of McMinnville and minutes were kept of business meetings of the church from 1816 to 1935. Bildad church is in DeKalb County. The Concord church mentioned above is seven miles North of McMinnville in Warren County, and was the home church of Rev. Isaac Denton, Jr. after 1855. He is buried, with several members of his family, in the little cemetery at Concord.

Isaac Denton and his cousin Ozias Denton were both





REV. ISAAC DENTON JR. AND SECOND WIFE, MARY

ministers and were very good friends. They married daughters of James Walling of White County. Both seem to have been prominent, well respected men in their communities; both raised large families. Soon after Isaac moved to Warren County in 1855 Ozias Denton moved to Arkansas.

Rev. Isaac Denton bought a farm near the Concord church in 1857 and lived there until his death April 7, 1889. During the time he lived in Warren County he was the regular minister at Concord, Rocky River, Caney Fork and Old Bildad. He would preach at each church one Sunday each month.

After gifts to his children and his wife Rev. Isaac Denton left a small estate to be divided among his children. He died without a will. In Book 8 of Warren County Wills and Administrations we find on pages 176-178 a sale bill of his property dated 1889. Most of the items were purchased by members of his family. Another sale bill is recorded in the same book, pages 217-218. The first settlement with the court clerk is found on pages 330 and 331 and the final settlement on page 412 of book 8. His son, Ozias D. Denton was the administrator. The final settlement found on page 412 is given in full here since it contains

some family data:

"The following is a settlement made this day with O. D. Denton, admr. of Isaac Denton, dec'd, as required by law in such cases, made and provided to wit: I find in the hands of the administrator the sum of \$53.42 as per settlement made May 30, 1891..... \$53.42

Credit by vouchers to wit:

No. 1 Daniel Dodson, receipt	\$ 5.30	
No. 2 Martha Glenn, Decr 3, 1891	5.30	
No. 3 G. W. Mitchell " 30, "	1.75	
No. 4 Pheba Glenn " 14, "	5.30	
No. 5 Harrison Glenn " 14, "	2.65	
No. 6 Levi Glenn " 14, "	2.65	
No. 7 W. C. Womack, assignee of J. D. Denton and Susan Cantrell	5.30	
No. 8 W. C. Womack, assignee of J. F. Webb, Nov. 14, 1891	1.75	
No. 9 Isaac Denton, Receipt	5.30	
No.10 Nancy and R. D. Webb, Dec. 3, 1891	5.30	
No.11 J. L. and R. D. Webb, Dec. 3, 1891	1.75	
No.12 J. M. Denton, Oct. 19, 1891	5.30	
A. R. Hammer, cash for this settelement	1.00	
Credit by Admr. Allowance	4.77	
	<u>\$53.42</u>	<u>\$53.42</u>

From the foregoing settlement it will be seen that there is nothing in the hands of the Administrator. I therefore present this as a final settlement, this March 26, 1892. O. D. Denton, Administrator. Sworn and subscribed before me March 26, 1892. A. R. Hammer, Clerk. Examined and confirmed, April term 1892, C. W. Stroud, Chairman."

Rev. Isaac Denton married first Rutha Walling, daughter of James Walling Sr. of White County, Tennessee, November 10, 1825. This marriage record is not found in White County as the marriage records previous to 1838 have been lost. Rev. Isaac Denton's bible only gives Rutha's first name and the date they were married under the marriage records. The nuncupative will of James Walling Sr. recorded in Will Book D, p. 371, White County, Tenn., probated Nov. 5, 1847 devises certain property "To the child of Isaac Denton and his wife Ruth". This oral will was given by Mr. Walling to his sons and neighbors on Oct. 14, 1847 just before he died from injuries received when thrown from a horse a few hours before. Rutha Walling Denton was born August 3, 1809 and died September 25, 1840. She is buried in the little family plot on the old Walling farm between Sparta and Quebeck. According to Isaac Denton bible record he and Rutha had nine children, as follows:

1. Pheby Denton, b. April 10, 1827



2. Martha Denton, b. Nov. 25, 1828
3. Nancy Denton, b. Sept. 28, 1830
4. Susannah Denton, b. March 20, 1832
5. Emaline Denton, b. Dec. 29, 1833
6. James W. Denton, b. Sept. 14, 1835
7. Isaac Denton [3rd], b. April 21, 1837
8. Ozias [D.] Denton, b. Feb. 7, 1839
9. George W. Denton, b. Sept. 12, 1840

Rev. Isaac Denton married secondly Mary Grayer, or Greer, August 3, 1841. Little is known about the early life of Mary, nor do we know, except by tradition, that her name was Grayer, or Greer. She was a widow and it is not known whether or not Grayer was her maiden name or the name of her first husband. She did have a child, or children by her first husband, for her grandson, Dr. "Bob" Hill is well remembered by some of the older members of the Denton family. Dr. Hill migrated to Texas and died there. Mary was born in Virginia, November 13, 1810. She told her grandchildren that she came from Virginia horseback and that as they neared the way station or inn one night after dark they saw thousands of "stars fall from the sky". One of her descendants has tried to place her migration from Virginia to Tennessee at the time of the great shower of asteroids during the 1830's, but astronomers tell us that there were many showers then, as now, and the date cannot be fixed with any accuracy in that way. The marriage record of Isaac and Mary is not found in White county and it may be assumed that they became acquainted during the time he was preaching in another section of the state. The family is listed in the 1850 census of White County, Tennessee: Isaac Denton, 44, b. Ky.; Mary Denton, 40, b. Va.; Susannah, 18, (she and the following children were all listed as being born in Tenn.); Emaline, 16; Isaac, 14; Ozias, 12; George, 10; Sarah Ann, 8; Ruthae, 5; Mary, 3.

Mary died in Warren County, Tennessee, August 23, 1883 and is buried beside her husband in the cemetery at Concord Church near McMinnville. The children of Isaac and Mary Denton were:

10. Sarah Ann Denton, b. Aug. 12, 1842.
11. Ruthie Denton, b. June 1, 1845
12. Mary Denton, b. March 23, 1848
13. Rev. James Mordica Denton, b. Oct. 8, 1850
14. Joseph Evander Denton, b. Sept. 2, 1853

Rev. Isaac Denton married a third time. In the DeKalb County, Tennessee marriage records we find: "Isaac Denton to Didama Badger, May 29, 1884, by J. L. Byars, M. G." Didama was the daughter of James Webb of DeKalb County. She first married a Cope who was killed in the Civil War and next married Berto Badger who was killed by a mule about 1870. Didama and Berto Badger had two children, Felix H. and Belle. Felix H. Badger, born 1869, now (1959) lives

in McMinnville. His mother, Didama, died Jan. 10, 1901 and is buried in the Webb Cemetery near Dibrell in Warren County.

To make it clearer to the reader the children of Rev. Isaac Denton Jr. will be listed with their descendants under the numbers appearing above, i. e. the children of Isaac and Rutha 1 - 9 and the children of Isaac and Mary 10 - 14:

1. PHEBY [Phoebe] DENTON, oldest child of Rev. Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born April 10, 1827. She was married on March 15, 1849 to James Glenn. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Ozias Denton in White County, Tennessee. The 1850 census of White County does not list Pheby and her husband. No further data except that a "Pheba" Glenn claimed a share of Rev. Isaac Denton's estate in Warren County on December 14, 1891.

2. MARTHA DENTON, child of Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born November 25, 1828. According to the marriage records of White County, Tennessee she married on April 28, 1850 to Levi Glenn. The ceremony was performed by J. L. Grissom, Esq. Tradition tells us that they moved to Illinois or Kentucky and that their children were Benson, John, Ruth and Amanda. They returned to Tennessee for a visit with Rev. Isaac Jr's. family about 1883.

3. NANCY DENTON, child of Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born Sept. 28, 1830. She married first, in White County, Tennessee, Robert Glenn, June 24, 1849 and secondly, Riley D. Webb, the widower of her deceased half-sister Ruthie. Her first husband, Robert Glenn, served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War and did not return. The children of Nancy and Robert Glenn were:

- a. Isaac Glenn, b. about 1852, m. Elizabeth\_\_\_\_\_.  
The 1880 census shows that there was one child, Charlie, in the family at that time, age 5/12 yrs. No further data.
- b. Joseph Glenn, m. \_\_\_\_\_.  
Had three children. Migrated to Alabama.
- c. Edward Glenn, b. about 1856, m. Magy\_\_\_\_\_.  
b. about 1853. Known children were:
  - I. William A. Glenn, b. about 1876.
  - II. Lillie M. Glenn, b. about 1878.  
Were in Warren County, Tenn. in 1880.
- d. Julus, or Tulas Glenn, b. about 1857. No further data.



## CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH NEAR McMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE



Rev. Isaac Denton Jr. was the minister at the Concord church for almost 40 years. After his death Rev. James Mordica Denton, his son, was the minister. The Concord Church was established before 1816. Many members of the Denton family are buried in the church cemetery.

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e. Terry Glenn, b. about 1858, m. Hannah Keener.  
Their children:

I. James Glenn, b. about 1878.

II. Levander Glenn, b. about 1880, m.\_\_\_\_\_.  
Most of children live in Warren County.

1. Shrilda Glenn, m. Oren Templeton
2. John B. Glenn.
3. Calvin Glenn.
4. Austin Glenn.
5. Walter Glenn.
6. Lola May Glenn, m. Lester Priest; parents of 12 children.
7. Charlie Glenn.

III. Bert Glenn, m. Cantrell. Their children:

1. Cleveland Glenn.
2. Hazel Glenn.
3. Doland Glenn.

## 4. Edmonda Glenn

IV: John Glenn, m. Bitha Maria Denton, dau. of Green V. and Della Fuston Denton. (See #8, descendants of Ozias D. Denton.) Their children:

1. Howard Glenn, died young.
2. Arthur Odis Glenn, b. Feb. 12, 1908, m. Nannie Lee Green. Arthur and Nannie Lee live in McMinnville and are the parents of five children: Betty Ruth Glenn, died young; John Arthur Glenn, b. Aug 3, 1930, m. Virginia Burris of Rockwood, Tenn.; George Thomas Glenn, b. Nov. 2, 1934, m. Feb. 4, 1956, Betty Jo. Martin; Joe Bryan Glenn, b. June 1, 1939; Lee Denton Glenn, b. April 3, 1944.
3. Minnie May Glenn, m. Robert Kirby. Their children: Robbie Kirby, Edward Kirby, Douglas Kirby, Ralph Kirby, Glenda Joyce Kirby.
4. Albert Glenn, m. Grace Pugh. One child: Gertrude Oleta Pugh.
5. Virginia Glenn, m. Troy Pugh. Three children: Troy Glenn Pugh, Dorothy Louise Pugh, Gayle Pugh.
6. Jennie Lee Glenn, d. y.
7. Daisy Ellen Glenn, m. Arnold Gray Powell. One child: Blane Gray Powell.

V. Rosie Glenn, m. James Lee Mitchell. Live Warren County, Tenn. They have four children:

1. Zelma Mitchell
2. Everett Lee Mitchell
3. Harley Mitchell
4. Elsie Mitchell

VI. Kiney Glenn, m. Ernest Boren. Live Warren County. One child: Tulas Boren, m. Drucie May Glenn.

f. William Glenn, b. about 1861. No record.

g. Robert Glenn, b. about 1863. No record.

The children of NANCY DENTON and second husband, Riley D. Webb. (See #11, Ruthie Denton.):

h. Octa Webb, m. Joe Womack, son of Felix Grundy Womack. Children in Warren County.

i. Pink Webb, m. Samantha Womack, dau. of Felix Grundy Womack. Children in Warren County.

4. SUSANNAH DENTON, Child of Rev. Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born March 30, 1832. In the White County marriage records, April 3, 1852, we find "William



Knowles to Susan Ann Denton." This Susan was probably the daughter of Jeremiah "Big Jerry" Denton. We have no further record of Susannah Denton, dau. of Rev. Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton.

5. EMALINE DENTON, child of Rev. Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born Dec. 29, 1833. She was married to Daniel Dotson (Dodson) by Rev. James Herd in White County on Sept 15, 1853. The only other record we have is the entry showing that Daniel Dodson claimed a share of the estate of Isaac Denton in Warren County in 1891, and the 1860 census of Warren County: "Daniel Dodson, 30; Emaline, 25; Martha, 5; Polly, 2."

6. JAMES W. DENTON, son of Rev. Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born Sept. 14, 1835 and died Jan. 14, 1844.

7. ISAAC DENTON (3rd), son of Rev. Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born in White County, Tenn., April 21, 1837. He married first in White County Matilda M. Rogers, March 7, 1860, the ceremony being performed by William Clayton, Esq. He next married Samantha Trapp, probably in DeKalb County. The only data we have on Isaac Denton (3rd), other than the above, was obtained in 1958 in an interview with his daughter, Mrs. Martha (Denton) Mitchell at her home near Centertown, in Warren County. Isaac Denton (3rd) lived in White, DeKalb and Warren counties. The children by his first wife, Matilda (Rogers) Denton were: Joe Denton, who married a widow Trapp; George Denton, who married an Atnip in DeKalb County; Billie Denton; Frank Denton; Mary Denton, d. age 9 yrs.; and possibly others. The children of Isaac Denton (3rd) and his wife, Samantha (Trapp) Denton, were: Cleveland Denton, who is buried in Gath Cemetery near McMinnville and had son Willie Denton; Martha Denton, (of whom more later); Dovie Denton, d. at age 29, buried at Fuston Cemetery; and Samuel Denton, not m., d. y., buried Concord Cemetery near his father.

Martha Denton, daughter of Isaac Denton (3rd) and his 2nd wife, Samantha (Trapp) Denton, was married twice. Her first husband was John M. Hale, who was born in Sumner County, Tenn. They had two children: A daughter who died in infancy, and a son, Herschel Schuyler Hale, m. Mamie Davenport. Herschel Schuyler and Mamie (Davenport) Hale had children: Jean Hale, m. Donald Cowan; Clyde Hale, not m.; Joan Hale, m. Louis Jordan; Cecil Hale; and Jerry Hale. Martha Denton was next married to \_\_\_\_\_ Mitchell. They had one child who died young.

8. OZIAS D. DENTON, son of Rev. Isaac and Rutha (Walling) Denton was born in White County, Tenn., Feb. 7, 1839, and came to Warren County with his father about 1855, where he spent the rest of his life on his farm near Concord, and where he died Jan. 16, 1933. He married Sept. 10, 1858, Sarah Melvina Medley, who was born May 14, 1832 and died August 23, 1920. They are buried in the cemetery at Concord.

According to his father's bible, where entries were made of the family of Ozias D. Denton, his children appear to have been:

- a. James Haywood Denton, b. Oct. 31, 1859
- b. America Denton, b. Sept. 12, 1861
- c. William F. Denton, b. Oct. 28, 1863
- d. Green V. Denton, b. Oct. 10, 1865
- e. Ruth Elizabeth Denton, b. May 4, 1867
- f. Nannie Belle Denton, b. April 28, 1869
- g. Sarah (Sallie) E. Denton, b. Oct. 28, 1870
- h. Annie Lee Denton, b. July 7, 1873

- a. James Haywood Denton, oldest son of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton was born in Warren County, Tenn., Oct. 31, 1859 and died in the same county May 19, 1940. He married Mary Garth, August 5, 1880. Mary was born Aug. 14, 1861 and died Jan. 29, 1940. According to Mrs. Edgar Swope (Mabel Denton) Ballentine Jr., of Courtland, Alabama, who furnished most of the data on the descendants of Ozias D. Denton, James Haywood Denton had nine children. These children and their descendants are as follows:

- I. James William Denton, b. Sept. 29, 1881, d. Aug. 11, 1945. Married Dec. 20, 1903, Flora Ann Clark, b. Nov. 10, 1883, d. July 17, 1936. Their children:
  - 1. Ray Overton Denton, b. Nov. 11, 1904, m. Nov. 25, 1926, Grace Katherine Butcher, no children. Live McMinnville, Tenn.
  - 2. James Virgil Denton, b. Sept. 4, 1906, m. April 1, 1939, Frances Poole of Fayetteville, Tenn. They have two children: Mary Adelia, b. March 1, 1940, m. Dec. 27, 1958, Gerry Zane Gipson; Edith Diane Denton, b. Sept. 4, 1945.
  - 3. Lila Rose Denton, b. Nov. 21, 1908. Not m.
  - 4. Edith Mabel Denton, b. Oct. 16, 1911, m. May 17, 1956, Edgar Swope Ballentine Jr. Live Courtland, Ala.
  - 5. Mary Lou Ellen Denton, b. Oct. 19, 1913, m. June 22, 1940, George Marion Spence, Shelbyville, Tenn. One child: George Marion Spence Jr.
  - 6. Thomas Ozias Denton, b. Oct. 27, 1915.
  - 7. Willie Mai Denton, b. June 4, 1918, m. May 30, 1942, William Theo. Drumright. Two children; William Theo. Drumright Jr., b. July 8, 1943; Milla Ann Drumright, b. Feb. 26, 1947. Live Nashville, Tenn.

- II. Robert Ozias Denton, b. March 13, 1883, d. April 1, 1884.

- III. Thomas Fredrick Denton, b. Nov. 29, 1884, Warren County, Tenn., m. May 19, 1907 in Warren County,



Josie Locke, b. Sept. 2, 1892, in Warren County, Tenn., d. April 1935 in California. This family lives in Barstow, Calif. We have data on five of their children:

1. Mary Emma Denton, b. May. 12, 1909 in Tenn., m. June 5, 1926, \_\_\_\_\_ Jones. Their children: Marie Jones, b. June 27, 1927; Wanda Jones; John J. Jones, b. Oct. 8, 1936, in Calif.
2. Sally Adair Denton, b. Sept 1, 1910, in Tenn.
3. Gladys Helen Denton, b. Sept 17, 1912 in Tenn., m. May 17, 1930, \_\_\_\_\_ Walker. One child: Carolyn Walker, b. Nov. 29, 1941 in Calif.
4. John Rice Denton, b. July 9, 1920 in Calif., not m.
5. Thelma June Denton, b. Jan. 21, 1923 in Calif., m. Jan. 26, 1942, \_\_\_\_\_ Robinette. Their children: Gail Robinette, b. Oct. 26, 1942 and Ronald Robinette, b. Oct 6, 1944.

IV. Lena Elizabeth Denton, b. Aug 1, 1886, m. May 12, 1907, Alvie Whiteaker, b. July 19, 1884, d. Feb. 21, 1954. Two children: Raymond Whiteaker, b. 1908 in Warren County, Tenn., m. twice and had sons; Alma Whiteaker, b. Sept. 15, 1910, m. Kelly Currey. Children: Betty Jean Currey, b. Oct. 13, 1933; James Henry Currey, b. May 14, 1937.

V. Sarah (Sallie) Florence Denton, b. Dec. 5, 1888, m. (1) Oct 31, 1909, Emanuel Patton, b. Aug. 18, 1882, d. Jan. 3, 1933; m. (2) Oct 5, 1942, Irving Lee Patton, b. July 22, 1873, d. Oct. 11, 1948; m. (3) May 26, 1956, James Parker Crain, b. Feb. 26, 1890. One child by first marriage: James Franklin Patton, b. Sept 7, 1910, m. July 19, 1931, Lula Mineola Morrison, b. Aug. 21, 1910.

VI. Charlie Cleveland Denton, b. Sept. 25, 1890, m. April 4, 1925, Lela Belle Woodard, b. June 11, 1902. One child: Peggy Joyce Denton, b. June 6, 1927, m. May 14, 1949, Frank Finley Turner, b. Dec. 12, 1921.

VII. Claude Harrison Denton, b. April 10, 1896, m. Dec. 30, 1922, Ruth Barratt. Two children: Claudine Denton, b. July 30, 1924; Winston Denton, b. Dec. 26, 1940.

VIII. John Franklin Denton, b. June 1, 1898, m. Nov. 13, 1920, Elma Berchie Sparkman, b. March 26, 1900. Children: Eliza Josephine Denton, b. July 15, 1923, m. March 18, 1944, Thomas Rust Small, Washington, D. C., b. Jan. 20, 1921; Treva Inez Denton, b. Jan. 14, 1928, m. Sept. 13, 1952, Phillip Stuart

Brown, b. Nov. 23, 1924.

IX. Mary Olive Denton, b. Nov. 13, 1902, m. Nov. 23, 1919, John Kenneth Sparkman, b. Sept. 11, 1898. Child: Sarah Mildred Sparkman, b. July 16, 1923, m. May 11, 1945, Ralph J. Hendrickson Jr., b. June 4, 1919, d. Oct. 4, 1955. Their child: Sharie Ann Hendrickson, b. Sept. 24, 1946.

b. America Denton, second child of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton was born in Warren County, Tenn., Sept. 12, 1861 and died in the same county Jan. 7, 1953. She was married on July 17, 1879 to W. C. Locke, who died March 13, 1939. They had eight children:

I. Dovie Locke, b. April 19, 1880, m. Smith Allen. The children of Smith and Dovie (Locke) Allen:

1. Chloe Allen, m. Benton Clark.
2. Ressie Allen, m. Bob Phillips.
3. Gentry Allen, m. Jewell Golden.
4. Horace Allen, m. Lillian Pack. Live in Mich.
5. Eva May Allen, m. Ernest Cantrell.
6. Norrell Allen, m. Naoma Usmuller.

II. Frank Locke, b. April 4, 1882, m. Effie Hensley. Frank and Effie have six children:

1. Willie Locke, m. Nellie Byrd.
2. Dosha Locke, m. Chester Martin.
3. Laura Locke, m. Gist Green.
4. Alma Locke, m. Elma Womack.
5. Jennie Locke, m. Gaines Schrock.
6. Robert Jackson Locke, m. lives in Chattanooga.

III. G. R. (Bob) Locke, b. April 16, 1885, m. Mattie Rowland. Their children:

1. Georgie Mae Locke, m. Joe Houston Womack.
2. B. F. Locke, m. Mary \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Mattie Ruth Locke, m. Lake Stalkup.
4. William Herschel Locke, d. y.
5. James Rowland Locke, d. y.
6. Wilma Dean Locke, m. Paul Grissom.

IV. Jack Locke, b. April 7, 1890, m. Marcie Lee Sparkman. Their children:

1. Floal Locke, m. Ira DeLaney.
2. Eula Locke, m. (1) Gilbert Madewell, (2) John Bryant.
3. William Ned Locke, not m.
4. Anna Locke, m. Walter Duke, live Springfield, Tenn.



5. Eugene Locke, m. Ann \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Roberta Locke, m. Hoyt Bell.
7. Pauline Locke, m. Herman Holmes.
8. J. V. Locke, m. Virginia \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Mary Lou Locke, m. Floyd McCollum, live in Nashville.
10. Jack Houston Locke, not m.

V. Otis Locke, b. March 18, 1892, m. Millie Womack.  
Their children:

1. Wesley Locke, m. Jennie Keener.
2. Nelson Locke, m. Florence Freeman, live in Ky.
3. Loise Locke, m. (1) Thomas Perry, (2) Clifton O'Neal, live California.
4. Imogene Locke, m. Bill Maddor, live, Miss.
5. Richard Locke, not m., lives, Calif.

VI. Sallie Locke, b. March 29, 1896, m. Haston Martin.  
Two children:

1. Elwood Martin, not m.
2. Frank Benton Martin, m. Lula May Narrod.

VII. Ida Locke, b. Sept. 20, 1899, m. (1) John Lane,  
(2) Sam Perry, no c.

VIII. Virgil Locke, b. June 9, 1901, m. Wretha Cantrell.  
Their children:

1. Laura Fay Locke, m. Russell Shirley.
2. Lloyd Denton Locke, not m.
3. Wayne Allen Locke, not m.
4. Eva Ruth Locke, not m.
5. James Arthur Locke, not m.
6. Bobbie Lee Locke, not m.
7. Mary Jo Locke

c. William F. Denton, son of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton, b. Oct. 28, 1863, d. y.

d. Green V. Denton, son of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton, b. Oct. 10, 1865, d. April 29, 1936, m. (1) Adella Fuston, (2) Bessie Lee Darnell. The children of Green V. and Adella (Fuston) Denton:

- I. Nannie Denton, never m.
- II. Hattie Denton, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Glenn.
- III. Tabitha Denton, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Glenn.
- IV. Isaac Denton, m. Matilda Smoot.
- V. Bryan Denton, m. Adelia \_\_\_\_\_.

The children of Green V. and Bessie Lee (Darnell) Denton:

VI. James Ozias Denton, b. Nov. 10, 1917, m. Nov.

- 20, 1945, Louise Nannie Certain, b. Aug. 19, 1914.
- VII. Arie Lorene Denton, b. Feb. 16, 1920, m. Sept. 8, 1943, George Gregory, b. Aug. 18, 1923.
- VIII. Betty Ruth Denton, b. March 10, 1922, m. Sept. 10, 1939, James Stroud, b. June 20, 1918.
- IX. Elsie Faye Denton, b. Sept. 3, 1923, m. Toy Tolbert.
- X. Georgie May Denton, b. Nov. 17, 1926, d. Feb. 27, 1927.
- e. Ruth Elizabeth Denton, daughter of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton, b. May 4, 1867, m. Feb. 3, 1882, G. W. Stiles, b. Nov. 10, 1857. Their children:
- I. H. B. Stiles, b. Feb. 1883.
- II. Osa Stiles, b. Oct. 14, 1884.
- III. Luta Stiles, b. Aug. 6, 1888.
- IV. C. E. Stiles, b. April 5, 1890.
- V. J. R. Stiles, b. April 17, 1892.
- VI. K. B. Stiles, b. March 16, 1897.
- VII. A. D. Stiles, b. May 2, 1900.
- f. Nannie Belle Denton, daughter of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton was born in Warren County, Tenn. April 28, 1869 and died in same county June 22, 1957. She married, March 22, 1888, Jerry Thomas Webb, b. Nov. 22, 1850, d. Jan 27, 1936. Their children:
- I. Everett Ozias Webb, b. Jan. 2, 1889, m. Hattie Belle Womack.
- II. Myra Omelia Webb, b. March 25, 1893, m. Jim Potter.
- III. Maudia Alma Webb, b. Sept 29, 1899, d. Aug. 17, 1917.
- g. Sarah (Sallie) E. Denton, daughter of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton was born in Warren County, Tenn., Oct. 28, 1870, lives in Alabama. Was married in Warren County, Tenn., Dec. 21, 1888 to W. J. Sanders. Their children:
- I. Tula Pearl Sanders, b. Feb. 1889, m. Samuel F. Certain.
- II. William Lanis Sanders, b. Feb. 9, 1894, m. Lizzie M. Eslinger.
- III. Minnie Belle Sanders, b. Sept. 25, 1897, m. Lee F. Finley.
- IV. Dallas O. Sanders, b. Aug. 7, 1891, m. E. Acuff.
- V. Laura Lena Sanders, b. Nov. 7, 1906, m. Joseph H. Kerr.
- VI. Walter Harrison Sanders, d. y.
- VII. James Forrest Sanders, d. y.
- h. Annie Lee Denton, youngest child of Ozias D. and Sarah (Medley) Denton, b. July 7, 1873, d. y.



9. GEORGE W. DENTON, b. Sept. 25, 1840, d. May 31, 1870. He was the youngest child of Rev. Isaac Denton Jr. and his first wife, Rutha (Walling) Denton. According to tradition he married Katherine Graves. No record of this marriage was found in the Warren County marriage records.

The children of Rev. Isaac and his second wife, (Mary Grayer, or Greer) Denton:

10. SARAH ANN DENTON, daughter of Rev. Isaac and Mary (Grayer) Denton was born, presumably in White County, Tenn. Aug. 12, 1842, and died in Warren County, Tenn., Dec. 22, 1860. She was married in Warren County, Jan. 9, 1858 to M. L. (Fate) Sellers. They had one child: Mary Sellers. Mary went to Texas with her cousin, Dr. "Bob" Hill, and died there.

11. RUTHA DENTON, daughter of Rev. Isaac Denton and 2nd wife, Mary (Grayer) Denton, was born in White County, Tenn., June 1, 1845, and died in Warren County, Tenn., Feb. 7, 1873. She was married in Warren County on November 4, 1861 to Riley D. Webb, who, after her death, married Rutha's half sister Nancy and had children. (See #3, Nancy Denton, p. 66). Rutha and Riley D. Webb had three children: Eveline, Floyd and Fate Webb:

- a. Fate Webb Moved to Texas where he has several descendants. No further data.
- b. Floyd Webb married Hallie Garth (Warren County marriage records: " J. F. Webb to N. P. Garth, Jan. 3, 1882") and they also migrated to Texas. They had, so far as we are informed, seven children children who now live in Texas:

- I. Mattie Webb.
- II. Brittain Webb.
- III. Ransom Webb.
- IV. Riley Webb.
- V. John Webb
- VI. Jesse Webb.
- VII. Lydia Webb.

- c. Eveline Webb, who was born about 1869, and died about 1952, remained in Warren County where she married George Mitchell, March 2, 1882. They had eight children:

- I. Oll Mitchell, b. April 16, 1884, m. July 23, 1907, Hallie Foster. They have two children:

- 1. Pearl Mitchell, m. Leland Arledge.
- 2. Clara Belle Mitchell, m. Shelton Cantrell.

- II Nannie Mitchell, m. Isham Denton, who was the

son of Joe Denton, son of Isaac Denton, 3rd.  
(See #7, p. 69). No. c.

III. Octa Mitchell, m. Herschel Summers. Children:

1. Emma Summers.
2. Hallie May Summers.

IV. Bob Mitchell, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Couvins. Children:

1. Gertrude Mitchell.
2. Evie Mitchell.

V. Jim Mitchell, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Rappe. They have four children:

1. J. T. Mitchell.
2. Edward Mitchell.
3. George Mitchell.
4. Jaunita Mitchell.

VI. George Mitchell, m. Flora Belle Dodd. One son:  
Earl Mitchell.

VII. Alice Mitchell, m. Venus York. One daughter:  
Ruby Ethel York.

VIII. Joe Mitchell, m. Hattie Cantrell. One daughter:  
Jodine Mitchell.

12. MARY DENTON, daughter of Rev. Isaac, and second wife Mary (Grayer) Denton was born in White County, Tenn. March 23, 1848 and died in Warren County, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1864. She was married in Warren County, Sept. 19, 1863 to A. D. (Dow) Murphey. No. c.

13. REV. JAMES MORDICA DENTON, son of Rev. Isaac, and second wife, Mary (Grayer) Denton, was born in White County, Tenn., Oct. 28, 1850, m. Octavia Sullentine Lowry, daughter of Phillip and Tabitha (Shipley) Lowry. The next chapter is devoted to him and his descendants.

14. JOSEPH EVANDER DENTON, youngest son of Rev. Isaac, and second wife, Mary (Grayer) Denton, b. Sept. 2, 1853, d. Feb. 5, 1854.



REV. JAMES MORDICA DENTON

(Son of Rev. Isaac, Jr., son of Rev. Isaac, Sr., son of son of Abraham, Jr., son of Abraham, Sr., son of Samuel, son of Rev. Richard Denton)

Born White County, Tenn., Oct. 8, 1850, died Warren County, Tenn., April 4, 1911.

Married Octavia Sullentine Lowry, born July 20, 1850, died Jan. 29, 1934.

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Rev. James Mordica Denton came to Warren County, Tenn. with his parents in about 1857, when he was seven years old. His father came to the county to serve as minister of the Primitive, or Predestinarian Baptist churches at Concord, Caney Fork, Rocky River and Old Bildad. Young James Denton, or Brother "Bud" Denton, as he was affectionately called, began his career as a minister in these same churches. He is mentioned in the Caney Fork minutes as moderator at their business meetings during the 1880s and early 1890s. His home church was also Concord.

He appears to have been the minister of these churches (where he would preach at each church one Sunday in every month) until 1892, when he went to Indiana and served until August 1897 as minister of the Bethlehem Baptist Church near Morgantown, Indiana. He then served for about a year with a congregation in Illinois, after which time he returned to Tennessee. He next went to Texas for one year, but it is not certain whether or not he had a regular pastorate there. There is some indication, however, that he did preach at a church called "Elem Fork, Texas".

After returning to Tennessee he was the minister at Concord, and possibly other churches in the Caney Fork Association, until his death in 1911.

In a pamphlet, or folder, called "Minutes of the Ninety-Third Annual Session of the Caney Fork Association of Predestinarian Baptists" held with the Church at Caney Fork, Warren County, Tenn., Sept. 21, 22, and 23, 1907: "MONDAY. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The roll call showed a quorum present. The Association was opened with singing, and prayer by Elder J. M. Denton and the following business was transacted: \* \* \*".

Concord was not listed as a member of the Association in this folder. The possible reason for this was the fact that the churches in the Association, during the middle 1890s, were divided over points of doctrine, and because of this, member churches, as well as individuals, would withdraw, or be excluded, from the Association, or the various churches. Rev. J. M. Denton was probably attending this

session of the Association as an individual from Concord, and not as a delegate appointed by the church at Concord. The churches listed as members of the Association in the folder were: Caney Fork, Glovers Creek, Rocky River, Holmes Creek, Roaring River and West Fork.

It is interesting to note that the ministers of this branch of the Baptist church never referred to themselves as "Rev.", nor did they permit the members of the church to do so. Instead they were referred to as "Elder", or in the case of our subject, "Brother Denton" or "Brother "Bud" Denton". Newspapers, etc., of the day referred to them as "Rev." and we are doing so here. It is also interesting to note that no minister of the Primitive Baptist Church was permitted to receive a salary for his labors with the congregations. All money was tendered as free will offerings by individual members of the church. Other remuneration received by the minister for his services is best explained by the quote in connection with the pay received by Rev. Richard Denton in 1659: " \* \* \* was paid in such articles as were most useful and comfortable". (See page 9).

The next folder we were able to find of the Caney Fork Association minutes was dated Sept. 1909 and shows that the Concord was reinstated as a member; it being so listed in this folder. This was listed as being the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Association and was held with the Church at Holmes Creek, in DeKalb County. Elder J. M. Denton was named in this folder as the delegate from, and moderator of the Concord Church. A paragraph on the last page states: "Our next Association will be held with the Church at Concord, Warren County, Tenn., 7 miles north of McMinnville".

One of the grandchildren of Rev. James M. Denton recalls attending a service at Concord while his grandfather was minister there. The service continued about two and one-half hours, as was the custom. Also, as was the custom, it began with the song director reading a stanza of the song from the hymnal. This would be followed by the congregation singing that stanza. This procedure would be repeated, stanza by stanza until the song was completed. The singing was always in what is termed as "long meter". In this style of singing it seems that some of the notes are "stretched almost to the breaking point" in the very slow tempo of the song.

Rev. James Mordica Denton was married in Warren County, Sept. 27, 1866 to Octa Sullentine Lowry, daughter of Phillip and Tabitha (Shipley) Lowry. She was born in Warren County, July 20, 1850 and died in Nashville, Tenn. Jan. 29, 1934 while visiting her daughter, Tabitha (Denton) Womack. Both are buried in the churchyard at Concord. They were the parents of six children:



1. William Josiah Denton, b. July 1, 1867.
2. Mary Ella Denton, b. Oct. 18, 1869.
3. Tabitha Jane Denton, b. Oct. 8, 1871.
4. Frances Isabel Denton, b. Dec. 18, 1873.
5. Samuel Philip Denton, b. March 4, 1876.
6. Marcus Didama Denton, b. Dec. 29, 1888.

1. WILLIAM JOSIAH DENTON was born in Warren County, Tenn. July 1, 1867 and died in Louisiana Dec. 2, 1930 as the result of an automobile accident. He was married in Warren County, March 18, 1883 to Belzora Lawson, b. April 14, 1866 in Warren County and d. June 6, 1939 in Kaufman, Texas. He moved with his family in 1887 and settled in the vicinity of Moody, Texas, where he operated a farm. For a number of years he operated a hotel at Mexia, Texas. Their home was in Kaufman, Texas at the time of his death. The record of this branch of the family is incomplete, but according to the information at hand Willie and Belle (Lawson) Denton had ten children:

- a. Dovie Louise Denton, b. Sept. 4, 1884, Warren County, Tenn. Lives in Houston, Texas. She was married Aug. 10, 1899 in Moody, Texas to Press Cantrell, b. March 9, 1872, DeKalb County, Tenn., d. Dec. 1, 1930, Ft. Worth, Texas. She married a second time, J. C. Wilson. The children of Dovie (Denton) and Press Cantrell:
  - I. William Haskell Cantrell, b. May 12, 1900, Moody, Texas, m. Ruth Kelley, Oct. 3, 1921. Two children:
    1. Haskell Cantrell Jr.
    2. Patsy Ruth Cantrell.
  - II. Edward Marshall Cantrell, b. Oct 5, 1903, Moody, Texas, d. 1932, m. March 18, 1923, Beulah Rogers. No. c.
  - III. Stella Catherine Cantrell, b. Sept 9, 1905, Kaufman, Texas, m. Feb. 16, 1922, Jack Thornton. Their children:
    1. Aubrey Olan Thornton.
    2. James Preston Thornton.
    3. Peggy Joyce Thornton.
    4. Billy Eugene Thornton.
    5. Marshall Cantrell Thornton.
- b. Minnie Ethel Denton, b. Dec. 13, 1886, Warren County, Tenn., m. July 14, 1901, Moody, Texas, Ross Barr, b. Feb. 2, 1878, Eureka Springs, Ark., d. May 29, 1949, Temple, Texas. The children of Minnie (Denton) and Ross Barr:
  - I. Ina Bell Barr, b. June 14, 1902, Moody, Texas, m. Dec. 13, 1934, Cliff Roquemore. One child,

Charlotte Roquemore, b. Nov. 23, 1947, Weatherford, Texas.

II. Milford E. Barr, b. Oct. 21, 1905, Waco, Texas, m. \_\_\_\_\_. One daughter, Barbra Barr, b. July 21, 1940, Kingsville, Texas.

III. Jessie F. Barr, b. Feb. 19, 1909, Kaufman, Texas, m. Feb. 7, 1927, Albert E. Jones. Children:

1. Maurice Jones
  2. Imogene Jones
- twins

IV. Ross Denton Barr, b. Dec. 24, 1913, Kaufman, Texas, d. March 20, 1949, Kaufman, Texas, m. 1933, Opal Boles.

V. Charley Q. Barr, b. Dec. 6, 1918, d. Feb 22, 1919.

c. Octa Beula Denton.

d. Joseph Everett Denton, b. June 5, 1891, Moody, Texas, d. Dec. 2, 1957, Denton, Texas, buried at Terrell, Texas, m. Dec. 25, 1910 at Kaufman, Texas, Mattie Alice Maud Felkner, b. April 25, 1893, Temple, Texas. Their children:

I. Daphna Marie Denton, b. Sept. 11, 1912, Kaufman, Texas, m. 1st, Charles Caswell McKenzie, m. 2nd, June 31, 1945 at Denton, Texas, Leon R. Young, b. Oct. 27, 1910, Gainesville, Texas. Child of Daphna (Denton) and Charles Caswell McKenzie:

1. Charles Everett McKenzie, b. Sept. 21, 1931, Aransas Pass, Texas, m. May 28, 1954, Margaret Rose Crouch. Charles Everett and Margaret Rose (Crouch) McKenzie have one child, Charles Stephen McKenzie, b. March 2, 1957, Ft. Worth, Texas.

II. Joe Everett Denton Jr., b. Oct. 16, 1922, d. Oct. 22, 1922, buried Mexia, Texas.

III. Marion Bernadene Denton, March 28, 1925, Mexia, Texas, m. May 6, 1945, Denton, Texas, Leonard G. Hardaway, b. May 8, 1917, Kearns, Texas. Child:

1. Leonard Joe Hardaway, b. Denton, Texas, July 13, 1946.

e. Ada Bell Denton, b. Nov. 26, 1893, McLennan County, Texas, m. June 29, 1909 in Kaufman County, Texas, Henry Sterling Rice, b. Sept 4, 1886, Kaufman County, Texas, d. Aug. 16, 1957 in same county. He was son



of Joseph Josiah and Mary M. (McDonald) Rice of Kaufman County. They are the parents of seven children, all born in Kaufman County:

I. Willie Josiah Rice, b. Sept. 6, 1910, m. Aug. 15, 1931, Mary Helen Mitchell. They have two children:

1. Evelyn Jo Rice, b. June 15, 1933.
2. Glenna Marie Rice, b. Dec. 19, 1935.

II. Mary Bell Rice, b. Nov. 15, 1913, m. Feb. 9, 1935, Roland G. Bailey. They are the parents of four children:

1. James V. Bailey, b. March 3, 1937.
2. Mary Jean Bailey, b. March 26, 1942.
3. George Dennis Bailey, b. Aug. 17, 1943.
4. Jerry Lynn Bailey, b. Aug. 24, 1949.

III. Beulah S. Rice, b. Dec. 19, 1916, d. Dec. 19, 1916.

IV. Minnie Christine Rice, b. April 26, 1918, m. Dec. 24, 1934, Julian H. Graham. Their children:

1. Caroline Jeanette Graham, b. June 16, 1940.
2. Kenneth Ray Graham, b. June 20, 1947.
3. Liza Flournay Graham, b. Aug. 17, 1952.

V. Martha Henry Rice, b. Jan. 14, 1923, m. April 8, 1942, Andrew W. Anderson. Child:

1. Ronald Walter Anderson, b. Dec. 3, 1943.

VI. Patti Ruth Rice, b. July 7, 1927, m. July 6, 1946, David J. Garman. Their children:

1. David Neal Garman, b. April 7, 1947.
2. Gary Monroe Garman, b. July 12, 1948.
3. James Steven Garman, b. Aug. 21, 1949.
4. Janis Kay Garman, b. April 18, 1953.
5. Joan Ellen Garman, b. Aug. 18, 1955.

VII. Joyce Ann Rice, b. Aug. 25, 1934, m. Aug. 31, 1951, James L. Carnes. One child:

1. Deborah June Carnes, b. Feb. 6, 1952.

f. William Leo Denton (twin), b. April 17, 1897, McGregor, Texas, m. Aug. 7, 1917, Kaufman, Texas, Hallie Jewell Henry, b. Oct. 15, 1898, Mabank, Texas. No c.

g. Cleo Denton, (twin), b. April 17, 1897, McGregor,

Texas, m. Roy A. Payne. Their children:

I. Viola Payne.

II. Warren Payne.

h. Claudia Denton, m. Walter Dunn. One child:

I. Opal Dunn.

i. James Jewel Denton, b. Feb. 25, 1902, d. Nov. 22, 1957, m. Lola Muce.

j. Jesse Warren Denton, b. Nov. 20, 1904, d. Aug. 30, 1941. m. Cecil \_\_\_\_\_.

2 MARY ELLA DENTON, daughter of Rev. James Mordica and Octa (Lowry) Denton, was born in Warren County, Tenn. Oct. 18, 1869, and died in McMinnville, Tenn. Sept. 16, 1956. She was married by Rev. Isaac Denton in Warren County, April 4, 1885, to Ben Hill York, b. July 10, 1863, d. Sept. 7, 1951, McMinnville, Tenn. He was a McMinnville Merchant for more than fifty years. They are buried in Mt. View Cemetery, McMinnville. The children of Ella (Denton) and Ben Hill York:

a. Etta Lee York, b. June 6, 1886, d. Jan 17, 1908, m. May 3, 1906 T. B. Simmons.

b. William Francis York, b. March 13, 1888, m. Dec. 23, 1914, Lurah Pearl Murphy. Their children:

I. William Farrington York, m. Willette Vandergriff.

II. Ben Hamilton York.

III. Robert Murphy York.

(The family of William Francis and Lurah (Murphy) York lives in Tullahoma, Tenn.)

c. Myrtle Belle York, b. April 24, 1890, m. Dec. 25, 1906, John Hardcastle. Two children:

I. Martha Ellen Hardcastle, m. Ed. Cady.

II. Mildred Belle Hardcastle, m. O. T. Cowley.

d. Samuel Comer York, b. Oct. 21, 1891, m. Oct. 30, 1915, Lula Perry Wade. Live Cleveland, Ohio.

e. Oscar Hill York, b. May 29, 1894, d. Nov. 7, 1894, buried Fuston Cemetery, Warren County, Tenn.

f. Marcus Octavia York, b. Sept 19, 1895, m. Jan. 23, 1917, Eugene Smith. They now live in Ringgold, Ga. One child:

I. Elizabeth Smith, m. Robert Belcher





James Mordica and Octavia Sullentine (Lowry) Denton and daughter. Marcus Didama Denton. (This picture was made about 1895 in Martinsville, Indiana.)

- g. Ruby Pauline York, b. Feb. 9, 1898, McMinnville, Tenn. Not m.
- h. Mary Ella York, b. Oct. 3, 1900, m. Sept. 22, 1918, Charles H. Riddle. Live Morrison, Tenn.
- i. Nellie Armistead York, b. Nov. 7, 1902, m. Jan. 1, 1921, Fred S. Andes, b. Dec. 7, 1892. Four children:
- I. Fred Stephen Andes, b. Oct. 16, 1921 in Warren County, Tenn. He was Lieutenant in U. S. Air Force during World War II and was killed in an airplane accident near Los Angeles, Calif. March 19, 1946. He married Sybil Horne of Oklahoma, April 20, 1943. Two children, twins, b. Oklahoma City, Okla., Sept. 26, 1945:
    - 1. Fred Steven Andes.
    - 2. Randy Thomas Andes.
  - II. Thomas Comer Andes, b. June 1, 1923, m. Nov. 9, 1951, Sarah Katherine Eubanks. No c.
  - III. Carol Marie Andes, b. March 31, 1925, m. Feb. 28, 1947, Jesse Hackett Jr. Three children:
    - 1. Stephania Anne Hackett, b. Jan. 22, 1950, Carthage, Tenn.
    - 2. Thomas Donald Hackett, b. Feb. 21, 1952, Carthage, Tenn.
    - 3. Robert Garry Hackett, b. Dec. 26, 1957, Carthage, Tenn.
  - IV. Minnie Ellen Andes, b. Sept. 24, 1927. Not m.
- j. Everet Gilbert York, b. April 1, 1905, d. Jan 25, 1906.
- k. Beulah May York, b. July 1, 1907, m. April 14, 1940, W. A. Southall. Live Nashville, Tenn. Three children:
- I. Bennie Hill Southall.
  - II. James Randall Southall.
  - III. Dorothy Frances Southall.
1. Bennie Pearl York, b. June 26, 1910. Lives Nashville, Tenn.

3. TABITHA JANE DENTON, daughter of Rev. James Mordica and Octa (Lowry) Denton, was born in Warren County, Tenn., Oct. 8, 1871 and died in Nashville, Tenn., March 5, 1958. She was married Jan. 1, 1894 in Trafalgar, Indiana, to Thomas Jefferson Womack who was born in Warren County, Tenn., May 20, 1864 and died in Nashville, Tenn. August 26, 1933. They are buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville. All of their children and grandchildren live in Nashville, except



two as noted below. Thomas and Tabitha (Denton) Womack were the parents of six children:

- a. James Denton Womack, b. Jan. 1, 1895, Nashville, Tenn., m. Oct 23, 1916, Ethel Hazel Hawkins, b. Sept. 24, 1897, Nashville, daughter of Charles Alfred and Helen (Davis) Hawkins. Jim and Ethel have four children:

I. James Denton Womack Jr., b. July 22, 1918, m. Aug. 14, 1942, Anne Bennett.

II. Howard Alfred Womack, b. July 13, 1920, m. March 17, 1948, Annie Pinkenton. Children:

1. Ronnie Womack, b. Nov. 7, 1949.
2. Gary Womack, b. Dec. 24, 1952.
3. Sherrie Womack, b. June 19, 1954.
4. Donna Marie Womack, b. Nov. 30, 1956.
5. James Russell Womack, Aug. 25, 1958.

III. Ramon Elliott Womack, b. March 25, 1925, m. Sept. 3, 1950, Jane Burkhalter. One child:

1. Barry Womack, b. Aug. 2, 1955.

IV. Harry Emmett Womack, b. Oct. 13, 1926, m. March 8, 1947, Katherine Fudge. Children:

1. Stephen James Womack, b. July 31, 1952.
2. Donald Edward Womack, b. March 3, 1956.

- b. Henry Clay Womack, b. Feb. 17, 1898, d. March 25, 1954, m. Oct. 9, 1930, Amy Etta Jackson, b. July 17, 1900 near Lebanon, in Wilson County, Tenn. She was daughter of Hugh H. and Lida M. (Spidell) Jackson. Two children:

I. Roberta Sue Womack, b. Sept. 13, 1935.

II. Richard Hugh Womack, b. July 23, 1937.

- c. George Howard Womack, b. Jan. 5, 1900, d. July 1, 1941, m. Oct. 28, 1923, Rosa Jane King, b. July 29, 1901. She was daughter of Edward Thomas and Julia Grene (Cooper) King. Their children:

I. Lois Ethel Womack, b. July 25, 1924, m. Dec. 23, 1942, Herschel Glean Richardson. Children:

1. Hobie Glean Richardson, b. Dec. 13, 1946.
2. Sherrie Lynn Richardson, b. April 6, 1948.
3. Victor Riquet Richardson, b. April 23, 1958

II Gladys Ellen Womack, b. Sept. 10, 1925, m. Feb. 21, 1945, Martin F. Walker.

- III. Virginia Louise Womack, b. Aug. 22, 1927, m. June 12, 1943, Roscoe Delins Jr. Children:
1. David Anthony Delins, b. Oct. 3, 1945.
  2. Diane Annette Delins, b. March 8, 1947.
  3. Karen Marie Delins, b. Nov. 4, 1954.
- IV. Thomas Edward Womack, b. Oct. 3, 1928, m. Sept. 30, 1955, Dorothy Jean Marks. Child:
1. Darryl Wayne Womack, b. July 13, 1957.
- V. Rosa Jane Womack, b. Sept. 13, 1932, m. July 21, 1950, Edward H. Tomlinson. Two children:
1. Jerry Hardy Tomlinson, b. Sept. 7, 1954.
  2. Susan Kay Tomlinson, b. Aug. 6, 1956.
- d. Robert Lee Womack, b. July 3, 1902, m. Feb. 11, 1922, Nellie Mae Perry, b. Aug. 3, 1901, daughter of Ephraim and Martha Ellen (Burnett) Perry. Robert lives in Wilmington, California. They have three children:
- I. Elizabeth Mae Womack, b. Oct. 21, 1925, m. April 27, 1949, Homer Clark.
- II. Martha Ellen Womack, b. Jan. 7, 1929, m. Nov. 17, 1948, Frank Robertson Hayes. Their children:
1. Deborah Gayle Hayes, b. Oct. 1, 1950.
  2. Darrel Wayne Hayes, b. Oct. 21, 1952.
- III. Barbara Ann Womack, b. Jan. 1, 1936, m. Oct. 1, 1954, James McAllister Perry.
- e. Ruth Womack, b. March 1, 1905, m. July 19, 1926, Cary Thomas Murphy, b. May 4, 1902, son of Thomas Clinard and Nancy Jane (Holt) Murphy. Three children:
- I. Geraldine Murphy, b. Aug. 13, 1927, m. Feb. 19, 1955, Robert Earl Major. One child:
1. Robert Earl Major Jr., b. April 6, 1956.
- II. Vernon Cary Murphy, b. June 26, 1933, m. April 15, 1955, Robbie Louise Appleton.
- III. Kenneth Bruce Murphy, b. Jan. 8, 1938, m. May 28, 1956, Carolyn Wilhelmina Graves. Child:
1. Kenneth Bruce Murphy Jr., b. March 19, 1957.
- f. Samuel Isaac Womack, b. Oct. 13, 1907, d. Jan. 15, 1953, m. May 15, 1926, Anna Belle Beazley, b. Nov.



2, 1911, daughter of George W. and Bertha Ellen (Young) Beazley. Three children:

I. Clarence Edward Womack, b. Feb. 18, 1927, m. Oct. 17, 1949, Delores Mathis. They live in Houston, Texas and have three children:

1. Herman Edward Womack, b. Sept. 29, 1954, d. April 12, 1955.
2. Carmen Maria Womack, b. Dec. 10, 1955.
3. Karen Renee Womack, b. Feb. 6, 1957.

II. Henry Clay Womack, b. Oct. 15, 1928, m. Dec. 3, 1950, Barbara Jean Bradbury. Two children:

1. Patrick Henry Womack, b. April 13, 1953.
2. Liza Wynn Womack, b. Jan. 5, 1956.

III. Jo Ann Womack, b. July 6, 1937.

4. FRANCES ISABEL DENTON, daughter of Rev. James Mordica and Octa (Lowry) Denton, was born in Warren County, Tenn., Dec. 18, 1873. In 1893 Rev. James M. Denton and family were living in Brown County, Indiana, where he was minister of a church. In that year Isabel returned to Warren County, Tenn. and married John Watson Womack. The ceremony was performed by John Watson Womack's uncle, Rev. Perry G. Potter, on Jan. 26, 1893, at the Womack home in the 15th District of Warren County. Her husband John Watson Womack was born in Warren County, July 9, 1869, and died in McMinnville, Nov. 27, 1935, and is buried in Mt. View Cemetery. He was a McMinnville contractor. They were parents of ten children:

- a. Harold Power Womack, b. Warren County, Tenn., Dec. 29, 1893, m. (1) Feb. 5, 1920, Erna Brown, b. Humphreys County, Tenn., June 2, 1893, d. Tullahoma, Tenn., May 30, 1920; m. (2) Nov. 1, 1927 in McMinnville, Tenn., Mary Myrtle Moffitt, b. Aug. 29, 1892, in Warren County, Tenn., daughter of Venus and Maggie L. (Bouldin) Moffitt. Live Tullahoma. No c.
- b. Octa Jane Womack, b. March 25, 1895, Warren County, Tenn., m. Sept. 23, 1916, in McMinnville, Alexander Burton Patrick, b. Aug. 4, 1893, d. June 5, 1929, buried Riverside Cemetery, McMinnville. He was son of Albert Wesley and Terrie (Spurlock) Patrick. No c.
- c. James Denton Womack, b. July 11, 1896, Warren County, Tenn., m. January 4, 1917, Nancy Dora Chilton, b. Nov. 8, 1896, Overton County, Tenn., daughter of William and Sarah Ann (Martin) Chilton. Jim and Nannie are the parents of three daughters, all of whom live in McMinnville:

I. Frances Virginia Womack, b. March 10, 1919, Warren

County, Tenn., m. Oct. 3, 1958, Thomas Andrew Locke, b. Oct. 10, 1911, Warren County, son of John Thomas and Maybelle (Merriman) Locke.

II. Nancy Louise Womack, b. March 1, 1921, McMinnville, Tenn., m. Dec. 14, 1940, William Washinger Strick, b. March 14, 1920, Easton, Pa., son of George Herbert Strick (b. Cleater Moor, England), and Erna (Miller) Strick (b. Pennsylvania). No c.

III. Jimmie Ruth Womack, b. March 28, 1925, McMinnville, Tenn., m. May 19, 1943, Everett Crownover Brock Jr., b. March 7, 1923, Warren County, Tenn., son of E. C., Sr. and Evelyn (Crownover) Brock. Jimmie and Everett have three sons:

1. Everett Crownover Brock III, b. June 14, 1944.
2. James Womack Brock, b. July 13, 1948.
3. William Barry Brock, b. Sept. 29, 1952.

d. Josiah Womack, b. June 6, 1899, Warren County, Tenn., d. Aug. 5, 1923, McMinnville, Tenn., buried Riverside Cemetery, McMinnville, m. Dec. 1921, May Elliott, b. August 13, 1902, daughter of Zachariah Taylor and Amanda Caroline (McCorkle) Elliott. Joe and May had one daughter:

I. Stella May Womack, b. Oct. 13, 1922, McMinnville, Tenn., m. June 3, 1944, Charles Lance, b. Dec. 23, 1924, Indianapolis, Indiana, son of Amos Lee and Opal Marie (Scott) Lance. Stella May and Charles live near Centertown in Warren County and have four children:

1. Charles Martin Lance Jr., b. April 14, 1945.
2. Walter Lee Lance, b. Sept. 8, 1946.
3. Stella Anne Lance, b. June 24, 1948.
4. David Michael Lance, b. May 29, 1954.

e. William Chester Womack, b. August 11, 1901, McMinnville, Tenn., m. June 6, 1926 in Spencer, Tenn. Leila May Earle, b. April 14, 1904, McMinnville, daughter of Charles Lee and Martha "Callie" (Davis) Earle. Their children, all born in McMinnville:

I. William Chester Womack Jr., b. April 11, 1932, m. Aug. 16, 1958 in Memphis, Tenn., Rebecca Ruth Froehlich.

II. Michele Earle Womack, b. March 28, 1935, d. March 28, 1935.

III. Charles Lee Womack, b. Feb 21, 1938.



- f. John Walter Womack, b. July 4, 1903, McMinnville, Tenn., m. Feb. 21, 1942, Ada Irene Boyd, b. April 22, 1913, Warren County, Tenn., daughter of James Reed and Mary Josephine (Cunningham) Boyd. One daughter:
- I. Cynthia Ann Womack, b. May 7, 1945, McMinnville, Tenn.
- g. Charley Raymond Womack, b. July 4, 1905, McMinnville, Tenn., m. June 19, 1929, Sallie Lee Carver, b. Jan. 12, 1907, Doyle (Cave), Tenn., daughter of Joe Cephas and Lucy (Moreland) Carver. Children:
- I Charley Raymond Womack Jr., b. May 9, 1930, McMinnville, Tenn., d. August 9, 1930, Nashville, Tenn.
- II. Mary Carolyn Womack, b. Dec. 18, 1931, Jackson, Tenn., m. July 11, 1953, Harry Corson III. Two children:
1. Mary Corson.  
2. Sally Corson.
- III. John Winston Womack, b. Jan. 9, 1934, Jackson, Tenn., m. July 27, 1952, Jackson, Tenn., Annette Moore.
- h. Samuel Robert Womack, b. April 7, 1909, McMinnville, Tenn., m. Feb. 16, 1936, McMinnville, Tenn., Nan Hampton Smartt, b. Sept. 25, 1910, Warren County, Tenn., daughter of Samuel Thomas and Jay (Hayes) Smartt. Children:
- I. Nancy Rob Womack, b. Sept. 29, 1937, McMinnville, m. May 19, 1957, Nashville, Tenn., Joe Marshall Lee.
- II. Sammy Jane Womack, b. March 13, 1940, McMinnville, Tenn.
- III. William Thomas Womack, b. May 3, 1944, Nashville, Tenn.
- i. Mary Elizabeth Womack, b. May 9, 1912, McMinnville, Tenn., m. Feb. 2, 1936, McMinnville, Tenn., James Matt Sevier, b. May 26, 1912, Jackson, Tenn., son of Robert Thomas and Glaydis (Spence) Sevier. Two daughters:
- I. Mary Glaydis Sevier, b. March 18, 1942, Jackson, Tenn.
- II. Susan Isabel Sevier, b. Feb. 2, 1947, Jackson, Tenn.

- j. Edgar Allen Womack, b. Sept. 23, 1914, Warren County, Tenn., m. Oct. 26, 1940, Knoxville, Tenn., Lucy Opal George, b. Aug. 20, 1914, Knox County, Tenn., daughter of Elijah Hazel and Cora Blaine (Shell) George. Two children:

I. Edgar Allen Womack Jr., b. Oct. 29, 1942, Humboldt, Tenn.

II. Ann George Womack, b. June 29, 1951, Loudon, Tenn. (This family now lives in Melbourne, Florida.)

5. SAMUEL PHILLIP DENTON, son of Rev. James Mordica and Octa (Lowry) Denton, was born in Warren County, Tenn., March 4, 1876, and died Aug. 13, 1934, St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana; buried Mt. Pleasant Cemetery near Franklin, Indiana. Married April 6, 1898, in Trafalgar, Indiana, Doshia Gertrude Anderson, b. Oct. 18, 1879, Hopewell, Indiana, daughter of Joseph Bailey and Sarah Margaret (Hunt) Anderson. Four children:

a. Baxter A. Denton, b. June 28, 1899, Trafalgar, Ind. d. July 27, 1902.

b. Ruth Jeanette Denton, b. June 15, 1903, Trafalgar, Ind., m. Aug. 22, 1923, in Trafalgar, James Robert Handley, son of James Edward and Anna (Graham) Handley. Two children:

I. William Richard Handley, b. June 5, 1928, Trafalgar, Indiana, d. June 5, 1928.

II. Sue Carolyn Handley, b. Feb. 17, 1931, Trafalgar.

c. Shirley Anderson Denton, b. Oct. 13, 1907, Trafalgar, Indiana, m. (1) Melba Hayden Sifford, d. April 12, 1938. One child:

I. Betty Jo Ann Sifford, b. July 7, 1930, Trafalgar, Indiana, m. March 12, 1955, Robert E. Vaught.

Shirley m. (2) Dec. 26, 1942, Trafalgar, Indiana, Stanley Russell Forsyth, b. April 16, 1900, Franklin, Indiana, son of Charles and Bessie (Laughlin) Forsyth. One son by this marriage:

II. Charles Denton Forsyth, b. Dec. 29, 1944, Indianapolis, Indiana.

d. James Joseph Denton, b. Dec. 16, 1913, Otisco, Ind., m. Oct. 7, 1956, Betty LeRoy in Oakland, Calif. Lives in Oakland.

6. MARCUS DIDAMA DENTON, b. Dec. 29, 1888, Warren County, Tenn., d. Nov. 27, 1896, buried Bethlehem Cemetery, near Morgantown, Indiana. She was youngest child of Rev. J. M. Denton.



## MARTHA DENTON

(Daughter of Abraham, Jr., son of Abraham, Sr., son of Samuel, son of Rev. Richard Denton.)

Died: Washington County, Tennessee. Buried there.

Married in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, about 1751:

(1) Dr. James Moore, d. Shenandoah County, Virginia.

Married, July 22, 1777, Shenandoah County, Virginia.

(2) Col. John Tipton, as his second wife. b. Aug. 13, 1730, Baltimore Maryland, St. Paul Parish; d. 1813, Washington County, Tennessee. Buried there. Will.

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Colonel John Tipton, born Aug. 13, 1730, migrated to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, where he became an active pioneer in public affairs. Wayland says he was a vestryman of Bedford Parish of Dunmore (later Shenandoah) County, Va. He became a captain under Col. Andrew Lewis in Lord Dunmore's war of 1774; was County-Lieutenant and Sheriff; Representative in the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1776; member of the House of Delegates from his county in 1781.

While serving as captain of a company of Militia, in Shenandoah County, Joseph Denton was under him. During this time Joseph Denton deserted and left that county to find refuge in Western North Carolina, before migrating to the Cumberland Settlement, now Nashville, Tennessee. Joseph and Abraham Denton, brothers of Martha Denton, subject of this sketch, both served under Col. John Tipton in this company of militia.

We have found no record where Col. Tipton was actually in an engagement in the field during the Revolution. His services and experience as a public official placed him in the position of being more valuable in the activities of those of higher rank during that period of time.

Some historians have confused Col. John Tipton with his close relatives of the same name, and also the name of Jonathan Tipton, and credit him with active military service, which according to the best information found, is definitely in error.

There is no evidence that Col. Tipton was at the Battle of King's Mountain. He did not come into Washington County, (Watauga) until about two years after that battle was fought, and none of the American command was drawn from his old home section in Virginia. Even Ramsey in his "Annals of Tennessee" is confused on this point. Col. Tipton removed to the Tennessee Country in 1782 and located on the farm now owned by the State of Tennessee as a shrine, which, before the state purchased it, was owned by Samuel Simmerly. This old home is situated about a mile southeast of the present

Johnson City, on Sinking Creek, and on the old road from that place to Bakersville, North Carolina. This farm in an earlier day belonged to David Haynes, the father of the Confederate State Senator Landon C. Haynes, and grandfather of Governors Robert L. and Alfred A. Taylor. Landon C. Haynes inherited the farm from his father and lived on it for years, during which time the nearby village of John's Depot was called in his honor "Haynesville". Lawson Gifford purchased the place of Landon C. Haynes, his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Simmerly inherited it. Mrs. Lawson Gifford was a sister of Landon C. Haynes and the place remained in the Haynes family for many years.

Col. Tipton was a farmer and politician. He first came into prominence in Washington County in 1784 when the movement for the organization of the State of Franklin was begun. At the convention held at Jonesborough in that year (Aug. 23rd) Tipton was a delegate, and on the motion of Wm. Cocke "whether for or against forming ourselves into a separate and distinct State, independent of the State of North Carolina, at this time" Tipton voted "no". The motion was carried in the affirmative, but over the adverse vote of Tipton, who led the opposition.

About this time John Tipton was elected by the North Carolina Legislature, Colonel of Washington County Militia (whence his title). He was also a member of the County Court of Washington County, which embraced at that time what is now Johnson, Carter and Unicoi Counties, throughout which Union sentiment was strong in the years of the Civil War.

After the passage of the Act of Oblivion by the Legislature of North Carolina in November 1785, an election of a senator and delegates was held near Sycamore Shoals in August 1786, resulting in the choice of Tipton for the Senate and James Stuart and Richard White as members of the lower house of the North Carolina Legislature.

On the cession of her western lands by North Carolina to the nation, and the organization of the Territory of the United States of America South of the River Ohio, in 1790, the Tipton Faction was given recognition by Governor Wm. Blount. When in 1794, a legislature of the Territory was assembled John Tipton appeared as his county's representative in the lower house and he served an important committee as its chairman.

When the State of Tennessee was organized, he was delegated to the first Constitutional Convention in 1796 and served on the Committee to which was assigned the drafting of that document. Under this Constitution the first Legislature of the State was assembled and again John Tipton was his county's choice, this time for the Senate. He continued to serve in the Legislature as long as he would consent to serve.



No historian has yet given this noble man's true record. He was far-sighted and knew the time would come when this part of North Carolina, then known as Washington County, would some day be peacefully and without violating the laws of the land be made a separate state, and he lived to see that time come and himself an important factor in the formation of the Constitution and laws of the State. He, in his course during the troublesome times of the State of Franklin, presented the opposite of a principle that caused the greatest civil war ever known. He held to the Alexander Hamilton idea of the strong central government and did his best to promote his views.

The first wife of Colonel John Tipton was Mary Butler of Northern Virginia, daughter of Thomas Butler who was killed in the French and Indian, or Lord Dunmore's War.

Col. Tipton married his first wife when he was about twenty-one years of age. By this wife Col. Tipton had nine children: Jacob, born in Frederick County, Virginia; Samuel, born 1752 in Fredrick County, Virginia, the ancestor of Mrs. Edyth Johns Rucker Whitley, of Nashville, Tennessee; Abraham; Jonathan; William; Isaac; Benjamin; John; and Thomas.

Col. John Tipton married as his second wife the widow Moore, nee Martha Denton. This marriage took place in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and it was Martha (Denton) Tipton who came to the Watauga Settlement in Tennessee, as the mistress of the tipton home. Col. and Mrs. Martha Tipton had only one child, a son, Abraham, who died at the age of about thirty one years.

Mrs. Martha Tipton is buried by the side of her husband in Washington County, at the Tipton homestead.

Draper's Manuscript, Wisconsin Historical Society, and numerous other well known authentic publications give much information regarding Col. Tipton, yet none have ever given the story of his life complete.

Col. Tipton was engaged in the raising of fine blooded horses. He owned the stallion "Diameda" and also "Don Quixote" whose pedigree was advertised in the Knoxville Gazette of Feb. 24, 1808. It is believed that he also owned "Tipton's Irish Gray", the fastest quarter horse known at that time.

Probably the most unusual thing about the Tipton family of Tennessee is that, up until the last six or seven years, there has never been a session of the Tennessee State Legislature without a descendant, either male or female, of the Tipton family being a member. The record may still be unbroken at this time, but we are not in a position to state it as a fact.

The line of descent from Colonel John Tipton to Mrs. Edythe Johns Rucker Whitley, of Nashville, Tennessee, is as follows:

Samuel Tipton married Susannah Reneau (Reno). Their son Abraham Tipton married Martha Lacy; their daughter Nancy J. Tipton married Thomas C. Johnson, their daughter Mary Catherine Johnson married Western Territory Rucker; their son Archibald Edmondson Rucker married Clara Gibson Johns, and are the parents of Edythe Rucker Whitley (Mrs. Albert Boyd Whitley). Archibald Edmondson Rucker, age eighty-seven years, is probably the oldest living of the Tipton descendants at this time (1958).

Colonel John Tipton, by his first wife had a son Abraham, who was born 1760-1, and killed near Louisville, Kentucky in 1782 while serving with George Rogers Clark. (U. S. Senate Journals. Rev. Claims. Senate of U. S. 1938, page 427).

Abraham Tipton, the son of Colonel John Tipton by his second wife, Martha Denton (Moore), was born shortly after the death of Abraham Tipton, the son of Col. Tipton by his first wife, of the same name. Thus Colonel John Tipton had two sons by the name of Abraham, one by each wife.

In the Washington County, Tennessee records of Inventories and Settlement of Estates, Loose Papers, Jonesborough, Estate of Abraham Tipton, Decd, by James I. Tipton, admr. October 1822. In the inventory of the estate April 20, 1820 there is listed among accounts, covering a very long list, "Mares put to Diamede" in 1819 at \$5.00 per mare.

This famous stallion was the property of Col. John Tipton during his lifetime. Abraham Tipton evidently carried on the fine breeding which his father had established before his death.





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